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ARAB TIMES

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 4-5, 1990/JAMADIUL AWWAL 8-9, 1410 AH



20 PAGES 150 FILS

Filipinos asked to register weapons

MANILA, Jan 3, (Agencies): President Corazon Aquino swore in nine new cabinet members today and called for teamwork to solve the nation's problems in the wake of last month's bloody coup attempt. Using emergency powers, Aquino later ordered that all firearms be registered anew.

Meanwhile, opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile denied allegations that he was linked to the Dec 1-9 coup attempt. He called the charges a witchhunt aimed at eliminating Aquino's opponents.

Congress also expanded the powers of a commission investigating the coup attempt, giving it the right, among other things, to look into bank accounts of suspected putsch supporters.

A consolidated version of bills from the Senate and House of Representatives creating the commission was passed in both chambers, called into special session by Aquino to approve the legislation.

Sen. Jose Lina, chairman of the Senate negotiators for the final version, said the commission would investigate last month's attempted coup and recommend "measures which will prevent similar attempts at a violent seizure of power."

The military, today filed rebellion charges against four officers and 16 soldiers and civilians accused of joining the failed attempt.

Charged by the military judge advocate general's office before government prosecutors were Lt Col Eduardo Matillano and Rodriguez Tor, Capt Antonio de la Cruz, Sgt Bulos, Rolando de Gracia and 15 other individuals.

Only Matillano and De Gracia are in custody. The military has offered rewards of up to \$47,600 for information leading to the capture of 15 coup leaders, including Tor.

The bill gives the commission quasi-judicial powers, including the right to grant immunity from prosecution to witnesses. It protects witnesses against self-incrimination in testimony they are forced to give before the commission.

It also allows the commission to require the monetary board to disclose information or grant authority to examine bank accounts if it has "reasonable ground" to believe the funds were used in the coup attempt.

In ordering new gun registration, Aquino also directed the armed forces to conduct an inventory of all their firearms, explosives, ammunition and other military equipment, including those on loan to civilians.

A law granting the President emergency powers, lasting until July, allows Aquino to issue orders to recover firearms allegedly used in the military rebellion, but Congress has required her to seek court warrants.

The order did not state when the new registrations would begin. The Department of National Defence was to draw up guidelines.

The government, private security agencies and civilians hold at least 453,300 licensed firearms, and more than 189,000 unlicensed guns were recorded in the first four months of 1989.

(See Page 2)

Weather

Cloudy weather with moderate southerly wind may freshen at times with a chance of scattered rain. Risk of sea moderate to rough. High water: 4.00 am, 5.00 pm. Low water: 11.00 am, 11.30 pm. Sunrise: 5.45 am. Sunset: 5.02 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 17°C 61°F. Alshai: 15°C 59°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 10°C 50°F. Alshai: 14°C 57°F. Minimum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 15°C 57°F. Alshai: 15°C 53°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 52 per cent. Alshai: 50 per cent. Rainfall: 50 per cent.

Unify Azerbaijan with Iran: rioters

Kremlin sends troops to stop rampage

MOSCOW, Jan 3, (Agencies): The government rushed more border troops to the southern republic of Azerbaijan today to try to stop a rampage by thousands of people along the boundary with Iran, a newspaper reported.

The government daily Izvestia said more than 4,000 people tore down guard towers and destroyed electronic alarms along the border. The official Soviet news agency said one person had died.

The rioters want southern Azerbaijan to be unified with northern

Iran and have threatened to remove all barriers at the border unless authorities remove them, the newspaper reported.

Azerbaijanis have said they merely want the right to freely visit friends and relatives on the other side of the border.

The Tass news agency said today one person was killed in a clash among the protesters. Border guards did not use their weapons and none of them was hurt. The dispatch did not say how many protesters were injured.

Izvestia estimated the damage at more than five million roubles (\$8.2 million).

Tass initially reported yesterday that the rioters were "high on drugs or alcohol" and did not mention any political motives. But Izvestia, in a report quoting I. Petrov, head of the KGB's Caucasus border district, mentioned only the political motives and said protesters had been plotting the rampage for weeks.

"Practically along the entire border between Azerbaijan and Iran a complex situation has emerged. This is about 790 kilometres (490 miles) on land," Izvestia said.

The turmoil is the latest violence in the Caucasus, a region torn for two years by strife among Azerbaijanis, Armenians, Georgians and other ethnic groups. The sending of reinforcements showed that the elite KGB guards stationed along the border were incapable of ending the violence.

The official news reports have not said how many border troop reinforcements were being sent, or how many are already in the region.

Iran accused the Soviets of violating a border agreement.

Vagiv Samedoglu, editor of the Azerbaijan People's Front newspaper, called the Tass report of attacks by drunken, narcotics-influenced mobs a "lie" written in Moscow.

He said, however, the Soviet Azerbaijanis had been camped along the border for nearly a month in hopes of seeing relatives and friends on the other side. The Azerbaijanis are the only Soviet ethnic group who, like Iranians, are largely Shiite Muslims.

About four million ethnic Azerbaijanis live in the adjoining Iranian province of Azerbaijan alone. Their Soviet kin want an open border and the freedom to trade and cross the frontier, practices that were suspended by dictator Josef Stalin. Samedoglu said by telephone from Baku.

A rally was held on Sunday in Baku to demand an open border, and pickets renewed the call yesterday in front of Azerbaijan's Interior Ministry headquarters and Supreme Soviet legislature, Samedoglu said.

Meanwhile, the reported kidnapper between Weizman and PLO has refused to confirm that role, but said he would continue efforts to promote Arab-Israeli peace, a Jordanian newspaper reported today.

"I refused to confirm or deny reports that I am the contact between the PLO and Weizman," Ahmad Tibi told the Jordan Times.

Israeli newspapers said today that intelligence officials were angered at the way Shamir was accused of classified information to expose a cabinet minister's contacts with the PLO.

The reports suggested it may have harmed state security and affected the information-gathering capabilities of the Mossad and Shin Bet, Israel's external and internal intelligence agencies.

Avi Pazzer, a Shamir spokesman, said the reports were "groundless" and that the prime minister "did not make any public use of secret material."

In fact, Pazzer said, Shamir withheld secret material so as not to jeopardize intelligence methods and sources.

Hamas leader on trial

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, 54, the paralysed leader of the Palestinian Islamic resistance movement Hamas, is wheeled into Gaza military court. Yassin was read a 15-count indictment charging him with recruiting the killers of two Israeli soldiers and ordering the deaths of suspected Palestinian collaborators. (Reuter wirephoto)

(See Page 7)

Israeli child trade

Four orthodox Jews held

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Jan 3, (AP): Four religious Israelis have been detained on suspicion of conspiring to kidnap dozens of children and illegally hand them over for adoption in Israel and the United States, a police spokesman said today.

Israeli news reports said the four people detained were orthodox Jews suspected of kidnapping children on religious motives, sometimes from mixed Jewish-Arab marriages. The kidnapping victims were often babies and toddlers, the Haaretz daily said.

Roni Yeshayahu, a spokesman for national police, said the suspects, three men and a woman, were taken for questioning yesterday and that the men were still in custody today.

The woman, who is suspected of selling children overseas, was put under house arrest today because of an illness, Israel radio said.

Yeshayahu said the suspects "are suspected of violations linked to the illegal adoption of children, conspiracy to kidnap children from their adoptive parents, and suspicion of transferring children abroad illegally." He refused to give details.

Fog hampered attempts to rescue survivors and recover bodies after the accident occurred last night near the village of Hafizabad, about 50 miles (80 kilometres) northeast of Lahore, police said.

Fog was still thick at daybreak as police abandoned a search along the banks and began stringing nets downstream.

"We are unable to do what we want to do because

of the fog," said a district police official, speaking on the usual condition of anonymity.

Witnesses said that seven workmen were dismantling the century-old, 70-foot (21-metre) long bridge while several onlookers huddled at the ends.

It gave way on one side, tossing one workman and dozens of other people about 16 feet (5 metres) into the swift lower Chenab canal, they said.

The nearby hospital at Hafizabad, about 4 miles (6 km) from the site of the accident, where the bodies were being brought, said it had received 40 bodies by noon today.

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US tests milk for harmful chemicals

WASHINGTON, Jan 3, (AP): The US Food and Drug Administration said yesterday that it has begun testing retail milk supplies in 13 cities after an independent survey found samples in several areas tainted with potentially harmful drugs.

The FDA said that while it is concerned that these unconfirmed findings may indicate violative drug residues in milk, "it sees no public health threat associated with animal drug residues in milk at the levels reported by the Wall Street Journal."

The journal's survey, reported Friday, found that of 50 retail samples collected in 10 major cities, 38 per cent were contaminated with antibiotics and sulfa drugs used to treat sick cattle, including sulfamethazine, a suspected carcinogen.

Another survey by the Centre for Science in the public interest found 50 milk samples from store shelves in metropolitan Washington and found 20 per cent were tainted, the newspaper reported.

The FDA last year revised labeling for sulfamethazine to warn against using it in lactating dairy cows for any reason because of recent studies finding that at high levels it can cause tumours in mice and rats.

In 1988, the FDA tested retail milk supplies in 10 cities and found sulfamethazine in five of 49 samples at more than the allowable limit of 10 parts per billion.

In response, the FDA launched a nationwide education programme to alert state and industry officials to the problem.

In announcing the 13-city milk survey, the FDA that "dairy farmers must... take responsibility for avoiding use of sulfamethazine, the drug found which is not approved for dairy cows."

The 13 cities where milk is being tested are: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Miami, Chicago, Kansas City, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Kansas City, Denver, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle.

Symbolic trip to Antarctic

Cousteau takes kids from around world

NEW YORK, Jan 3, (AP): Jacques Cousteau and his son, Jean-Michel, are headed for Antarctica this week, leading an expedition with six children representing the world's other continents.

"We are going on behalf of the generations to come — the children of tomorrow," said Jean-Michel Cousteau. "We decided to have them step on this virgin land, as big as the continental United States, and have them realize it will be their responsibility to either care for it or exploit it."

Jacques Cousteau, the 79-year-old ocean explorer known for his television specials and environmental activism, has been promoting a French-Australian proposal to make Antarctica a nature reserve.

The United States and Britain oppose the idea,

urging instead for an international minerals treaty that would permit regulated mining there.

The expedition was to sail today from Punta Arenas, Chile, and arrive in Antarctica on Saturday, weather permitting.

Jean-Michel Cousteau was in New York yesterday and planned to catch up with the group in Antarctica later.

The children will talk to scientists and observe the Cousteau team. Divers will film the wreck of an Argentinean supply ship, Bahia Paraiso. The resulting oil spill hindered experiments into the ozone depletion.

South America will be represented by Jeronimo

Brunner, 11, of Santiago, Chile.

The other children are: Cory Gillmer, 12, a sixth grader from Virginia Beach, Virginia, representing North America; Kelly Jean Matheson of Hobart, Australia, a fifth grader whose age was not given; Fumiko Matsumoto, 11, of Hamamatsu, Japan, representing Asia; Eliose Otzenberger, 11, of Paris, representing Europe; and Oko Joseph Shio, 12, of Takanawa, hometown unknown, representing Africa.

All except Brunner and Gillmer attend schools in Paris.

Charles Vinick, a spokesman for the Cousteau Society, said there was no particular criteria for selecting the students.



Cousteau holds up a flag during a press conference Jan 2. (Reuter wirephoto)



Nadia's brother

Adrian Comaneci, 22-year-old brother of Olympic gymnastics gold medallist Nadia Comaneci, surveys his sister's bedroom and her doll collection. He is wearing a t-shirt which has the slogan 'Long live Romanian liberty' printed on it. (Reuter wirephoto)

Man goes out on shooting spree

7 die in Greenland massacre

NUUK, Greenland, Jan 3, (UPI): The death toll in Greenland's worst ever mass killing rose to seven yesterday with the deaths of two hospitalised women who were shot in the face by an 18-year-old man, Narsaq police said.

Five people were killed outright in the shooting spree which took place Monday in a complex of boarding-house rooms in the southern Greenland hamlet of Narsaq, 400 km (250 miles) south of the capital Nuuk. Narsaq has a population of almost 2000.

"One 22-year-old man is still in hospital recovering from his wounds. His condition is serious but seems to be stable," police inspector Lars Hellman told United Press International in a telephone interview from Narsaq.

"They were all shot in the face with a rifle. Five of them

died immediately. There was only small hope for the two women who were hospitalised," Hellman said.

"It appears there had been a New Year's party, but we have no immediate indication of the motive," Hellman added saying the scene that met police after the killings had been "bloody and gruesome."

Those killed were three men aged 18, 33 and 34 and four women aged 18, 19, 26 and 29. Their names were not released but all were said to be Greenlanders.

"This is the worst tragedy of its type ever in Greenland," Hellman said.

The 18-year-old has admitted the killings. He has been remanded in custody for four weeks pending investigation and forensic reports," Hellman said.



ANNOUNCEMENT

It has come to our attention that some "Mercedes-Benz" cars currently available on the local market do not seem to have a traceable history, and in some instances our principals "Mercedes-Benz" Germany were not able to identify the chassis number for some of those cars.

We shall regrettably decline to provide maintenance and/or repair services to any car with a doubtful history.

The aim of this announcement is to draw the attention of the general public to the importance of knowing the history of any vehicle prior to its purchase, so that they will get the sort of reliability they expect from "Mercedes-Benz" cars.



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Redoubt erupts again in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Jan 3, (AP): Airline flights were cancelled and residents marvelled at a spectacular light show, as Redoubt volcano shot ash into the sky in its biggest eruption since waking from a 25-year sleep.

The Alaska volcano Observatory said the eruption shortly before 6 pm yesterday (0300 GMT) today was Redoubt's biggest since seismic activity began Dec 13.

Pilots reported a plume as high as 40,000 feet (12,200 metres) and said lava appeared to be flowing down the volcano's southwest flank 115 miles (185 kilometres) southwest of Anchorage, observatory scientists said.

A radio station near Kenai, across Cook Inlet from the volcano, was swamped with calls from people who saw lights in the sky.

"We've had listeners on the air reporting what looked like heated, falling stones," said John Davis of Saturation KSRM. He said people parked their cars near inlets beaches to watch the walk.

Geologist Robert McGimsey of the observatory in Anchorage said it was possible the reported lava flow was a mixture of ash and not gas. He said scientists would have to wait until daylight to investigate.

The volcano spewed an "extensive ash plume," McGimsey said. Another geologist at the Observatory, Don Richter, said late last night that it appeared most of the has settled before reaching populated areas.

Richter said "a number of strong but less severe (seismic) events" occurred at about 8 pm (0500 GMT) today.

The Federal Aviation Administration advised pilots to "cooperatively evaluate operations to and from Anchorage." A number of flights scheduled for last night and this morning were cancelled, and some night flights were diverted to other airports.

Scientists have been monitoring the volcano around the clock. The peak erupted three weeks ago and spewed ash 33,000 feet (10,000 metres) into the air the next day. Varying levels of seismic activity continued through the month.

Last month, Christmas travellers and mail were delayed and Anchorage air traffic slowed to a trickle after a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Boeing 747 flew through ash, lost power to all four engines and fell more than 2 miles (3 kilometres). The plane made a safe emergency landing after the engines were restarted.

The habitation nearest the volcano, the drift river oil storage facility 20 miles (32 kilometres) away, was evacuated yesterday when scientists issued warnings about the upcoming eruption, the Alaska division of emergency services said.

The 23-day inquest, conducted by chief magistrate Joseph Mango, ruled that Miss Ward had been murdered, despite the state's contention the wildlife photography enthusiast had been eaten by carnivorous animals in the sprawling southwestern game reserve.

Miss Ward's partly charred lower left leg and lower jaw were found in the reserve Sept 13, 1988, a week after she reportedly left the park.

Jen Thompson, a chief superintendent for the British criminal investigation body, arrived yesterday and immediately began talks with Kenyan police on the murder of Julie Ward, whose death was the focus of a highly publicised Kenyan inquest last year.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

'Batman' 1989's biggest blockbuster

US theatres reap record \$5b

LOS ANGELES, Jan 3, (AP): North America's movie theatres reaped a record of more than \$5 billion at the box office in 1989, powered by the punch of "Batman" and other highly promoted action films.

Despite a lackluster Christmas holiday season, summertime moviegoers spun the turnstiles at such a dizzying pace that the box-office record of \$4.45 billion from 1988 was smashed, according to figures released yesterday.

The official box-office total was set by fewer films: 446 features made their debuts in 1989, down 13 per cent from the previous year.

In the studio-hy-studio race, Warner Bros was No.

roles for Hispanics.

The 28-year-old comic, who plays a ski patrolman in the upcoming movie, "Ski Patrol," said in a recent interview that Hispanics are being totally left out of television country ski gear.

Petter Skinstad, the 3 month-old son of national ski team member Age Skinstad, received the specially made skis and copy of the Norwegian ski team uniform from his godfather Bjorn Dahl, a top cross-country racer, said the boy's mother, Ragnhild.

The southern Norway newspaper Oppland Arbeiderblad published a photograph of the infant skier Tuesday and said his father predicted that Petter would use the skis next winter, after he learns to walk. (AP)

He steers clear of ethnic stereotypes in movie and television roles. (AP)

ELGIN, Illinois: Stand-up comedian George Lopez, who plays up his ethnic roots in his act, is dismayed by the lack of comedy

roles for Hispanics.

The woman, who was not identified by police, returned to find that her car and child were missing, Landwehr said.

Police in the neighbouring town of Streamwood received an anonymous call about a half-hour later, saying the car and the child could be found in the parking lot of a townhouse development there.

The child was reunited with her mother, police said. (AP)

PILSEN, Illinois: A car thief drove away with more than he had bargained for — a 4-year-old girl asleep in the front seat.

The car was found abandoned about an hour after the incident Sunday, and the child was still asleep, authorities said.

A woman had driven to a supermarket in this city 40 miles west of Chicago and left her

daughter asleep and the car's engine running, said Elgin police sergeant Norma Landwehr.

The woman, who was not identified by police, returned to find that her car and child were missing, Landwehr said.

Police in the neighbouring town of Streamwood received an anonymous call about a half-hour later, saying the car and the child could be found in the parking lot of a townhouse development there.

The child was reunited with her mother, police said. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Actor Alan Hale Jr, who played the jovial skipper who led a zany band of castaways on television's "Gilligan's Island," has died after being hospitalised for cancer at age 68.

Hale died Tuesday at St Vincent's Hospital, where he had been a patient for about a month after being diagnosed with the disease a year ago, said Boane Crouch, a spokeswoman for his family.

A Los Angeles native, Hale appeared in 65 movies, but became a fixture on television thanks to the syndication of "Gilligan's Island."

He does not like sexual jokes, but admits that "you do remember the darned things." (AP)

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Noriega aides' trials open

MIAMI, Jan 3, (AP): Two co-defendants of deposed Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega appeared in court yesterday to face drug charges, but their lawyers challenged the US government's right to extradite them from Panama.

Daniel Miranda, 36, gave only his name and age through an interpreter to a federal magistrate. His attorney, Michael O'Kane, said Miranda would remain mute throughout the proceeding.

"This is a violation of the Panama Canal treaty," the defense lawyer argued. "It says that if there are any criminal acts, the defendant would be turned over to Panamanian authorities and not surren-

dered to the United States."

In another courtroom, Luis del Cid, whom prosecutors have called Noriega's "right-hand man," had his pre-trial detention hearing continued until Jan 16 so his lawyers can bring witnesses from Panama.

"As much as American citizens might like to see justice done to criminals all over the world, the United States is not an international police force," said Del Cid's lawyer, Samuel Burstyn. "The United States just can't go out and invade other countries and arrest whomever it wants."

Del Cid has been held in Miami since he surren-

dered to US troops in Panama's northern Chiriqui province on Christmas Eve and flown to Florida the next day.

Miranda was captured by US military personnel and Drug Enforcement Administration agents during a raid on his Panama City apartment on Sunday, then escorted to the Miami by agents of the US Drug Enforcement Administration on Monday.

An indictment issued here in February 1983 accuses Noriega and 15 other men — including Pablo Escobar Gavira, leader of a cocaine cartel based in Medellin, Colombia — of running drugs and using Panama as a safe haven for traffickers.

Noriega - Israeli ties on spotlight

WASHINGTON, Jan 3, (Reuters): The bizarre case of an Israeli who was a close associate of Manuel Antonio Noriega and vanished in the turmoil of the US invasion of Panama has focused attention on the deposed general's shadow links with Israel.

US officials in Panama said last week that Mike Harari, a former senior officer in the Israeli Mossad intelligence service, had been captured by US troops. Two days later they admitted they were probably wrong.

"They thought they had him," said a senior US embassy official. "On further checking either they didn't have him — most probable — or he convinced them he was someone else."

Israeli television quoted sources close to Harari's family as saying he was in Israel. Other reports spoke of Harari, 62, being spotted in Nicaragua.

A US Defense Department spokesman said last weekend he was advised to answer questions about Harari by saying military officials had no knowledge of his having been captured.

The confusion prompted some speculation that the United States had quietly let Harari escape to avoid potential embarrassment. But analysts said it was more likely he was inadvertently released, if indeed he was ever detained.

"The intelligence on Noriega and the top Panamanian leadership was not particularly good prior to the invasion," said one analyst. "Look at how Noriega himself was able to wander around and finally find refuge at the Vatican embassy."

Another, who knew Harari, said it was entirely likely that he could have tricked US troops into letting him go.

"He is very intelligent, very highly-trained and he knows his way around Panama as few others do," the analyst said.

According to this analyst, who asked not to be named, Harari, a longtime business associate of Noriega, was the conduit for the general's blossoming relationship with the Israeli government.

"When the US ended its relationship with Noriega, he turned to the Israelis. They provided technicians and spare parts, fixed his helicopters and set up a communications network for the Panamanian military," he said.

Noriega himself seemed to have had ambivalent feelings about Israel. On the one hand the US military has produced evidence he kept a picture of Hitler in his voodoo chamber. On the other, he bought a house in a fashionable suburb of Tel Aviv and sent his children to a Jewish school.

Harari retired in 1979 as head of the Mossad in Central America and Mexico. Previously, he headed Israeli hit squad operations which killed a number of Palestinians in revenge for the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

He first met Noriega in 1973 when the general headed Panama's G-2 intelligence unit for the late Omar Torrijos, who died in a 1981 plane crash.

Harari played an integral role in developing the Panamanian Defense Forces and even suggested giving them their innocuous-sounding name, based on the Israeli defense forces.

He also trained and recruited Noriega's personal security detail, which included former Israeli soldiers and Cuban military advisers.

Cuba, Romania get seats in Security Council: character won't change

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 3, (AP): Five countries, including Romania and Cuba, joined the UN Security Council yesterday for two-year terms.

Ivory Coast, Democratic Yemen and Zaire also became members in a regular change of membership that UN and US officials said would not greatly change the character of the body.

"We respect our Warsaw Treaty obligations, but we will energetically pursue consensus solutions sought by the inter-

national community on major regional conflicts," said a senior Romanian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We want to co-operate."

"We aim to give Romania more international credibility and it will have more believability as it follows the democratic process," the diplomat told the Associated Press in an interview. In the past, he said, such interviews were rare, but Romania now recognises the "importance of openly expressing its views and answering ques-

tions."

The 15-member Security Council is the most powerful UN body and can adopt legally binding resolutions. Its five permanent members — the United States, Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union — have veto power.

The other non-permanent members of the council are Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland and Malaysia.

All 10 non-permanent members of the council serve for two-year terms and are

Noriega indicted on partial intelligence data

US may face problems in trying general

WASHINGTON, Jan 3, (Agencies): Federal prosecutors failed to conduct a thorough review of intelligence information before indicting Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega on drug charges, the Justice Department conceded yesterday.

Noriega, who remained in the Vatican mission in Panama as an impasse over his fate entered its second week, was indicted on drug charges in Florida in 1983. But his long association with the CIA and other US intelligence agencies has raised the prospect of Noriega obtaining intelligence files if he goes on trial in the United States.

Even if the United States gets Noriega, putting him on trial may raise a

number of legal problems.

First, Noriega's defense attorneys have served notice that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for their client to get a fair trial because of the widespread prejudicial publicity since the US military invasion began Dec. 20.

David Runkel, chief spokesman for Attorney General Dick Thornburgh said prosecutors plan to proceed first in Miami and then will bring Noriega to trial on a three-count indictment returned by a grand jury in Tampa in 1983.

Some department prosecutors privately are concerned because the Miami case relies mainly on convicted drug dealers who became informants as part of a deal to get a lighter sentence or avoid jail altogether.

Noriega's attorneys can be expected to question the credibility of such witnesses, they said.

Retreating from his previous statements, Runkel said: "I'm now told there was not a specific review of all the intelligence material before the indictments were brought."

He said a full intelligence review is now in the "preliminary stage."

Last week, Runkel had said the "normal procedure" for the Justice Department is to carefully weigh intelligence issues before an indictment is brought. Runkel had said that that concerns about disclosure of intelligence secrets in the Noriega case had been "grossly exaggerated."

Richard Gregorie, the former lead prosecutor in the US drug case against Noriega, said he was shown only "absolutely worthless" intelligence information on Noriega when he sought access to CIA records on the Panamanian in 1983. Newspaper clippings comprised a good part of the thin file, Gregorie said.

Noriega had long enjoyed a close relationship with the CIA and other US intelligence agencies. Current and former US officials have said Noriega was paid from CIA accounts for helping gather information on Cuba and Central America.

Noriega could make broad demands for US intelligence files if he went on trial in an effort to show that the United States was "authorised" or "knew about" his activities. Noriega is known to have met with President George Bush at least twice — in 1976 and 1983.

Gregorie, now in private practice in Miami, said the invasion of Panama also complicates the case against Noriega by raising serious constitutional questions about illegal searches and seizures by US soldiers looking for documents and other evidence.

Noriega was indicted in February 1983 in Miami on charges of receiving more than \$4.6 million to protect cocaine shipments from Colombia to the United States. He also was indicted in Tampa, Florida, on charges of accepting a bribe from drug traffickers.

The Justice Department has said the Miami case is stronger and Noriega will be tried there first if he is taken into US custody.

Meanwhile in Panama, Panama's new attorney general said yesterday he was still preparing to file criminal charges against Noriega as a Vatican envoy began negotiations to resolve the crisis.

Panama's new vice president and a former top officer of Noriega joined demands yesterday that the deposed strongman be turned out of his asylum in the Vatican's embassy and handed over to US forces.

Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon said Papal Nuncio (ambassador) Jose Sebastian Laboa should urge Noriega to leave the nunciature (embassy), where he was granted temporary asylum nine days ago.

If the ousted general did not agree to go, the Vatican should announce the building was no longer a diplomatic seat and allow US troops to go in and get him, Arias Calderon said.

The Panamanian government has closed television and radio stations believed linked to Noriega and said laws affecting the media would be studied because "they were instruments of oppression."

identity or affiliation.

"I only know that a mine went off and a grenade and there was heavy shooting afterward," said Schmitz, 46. "We identified ourselves but nobody came to the pickup."

The leftist Sandinista govern-

ment blamed US-backed rebels,

known as Contras, but other

church officials said they didn't

know who was responsible.

Schmitz, the auxiliary Bishop of Bluefields, said the group was

ambushed Monday afternoon in

a place called Ojo De Agua, out-

side the town of Rosita 250 miles

(400 kms) northeast of Managua

in the northeastern province of

Zelaya.

An isolated area with few

roads, northeast Nicaragua is

a stronghold of the Miskito

Indians and an autonomous part

of the Contra resistance.

Bluefields, Nicaragua's main

Caribbean port, is about 100 miles (160 kms) south of Puerto Cabezas.

Church officials said the work-

ers were driving through the

remote region in a white pickup

with yellow crosses painted on

the sides.

Schmitz said the group had

gone from Puerto Cabezas to the

town of Siquia, but were ambu-

shed as they drove on to Rosita

for a meeting.

Traveling in a convoy with

them was Bishop Salvador

Schlaefler, who stayed behind in

Siquia, he said.

Asked if the attackers were

rebels, Schmitz said he didn't

know because "it was very dark

outside."

Regional Deputy Commander

Julio Ruggama contended that

the church workers were ambu-

shed by about 60 rebels who

operate in the region.

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US will pull out some troops from S.Korea

Misconduct by disgraced Chun is a 'closed chapter'

SEOUL, Jan 3, (AP): The United States and South Korea are near an agreement to withdraw 5,000-6,000 US soldiers from South Korea this year to meet US congressional demands and defence budget cuts, the Yonhap news agency reported today.

The national news service quoted unidentified Korean government sources as saying the two governments discussed restructuring the US troop presence in South Korea, including reductions in its size, in connection with a bill sponsored by US Senators Sam Nunn and John Warner.

The US 8th Army headquarters in Seoul said it would have no comment on the report.

Yonhap said relocating the Marines to South Korea was linked to the long-range idea of maintaining stability in East Asia.

One Korean official was quoted as saying the two countries shared the view that US troops were needed at the present level until there is improvement in relations between North and South Korea.

Washington repeatedly has stated that US troops will not be withdrawn as long as South Korean officials feel they are needed for defence of the country.

In another report, the daily newspaper Dong-A Ilbo reported today that for the first time this year the United States and South Korea were expected to scale back the annual "Team Spirit" military exercises to create a better atmosphere for North-South talks.

President Roh Tae-Woo of South Korea, declaring "the case closed" appealed to the nation today to stop bickering over charges of alleged misconduct by disgraced former president Chun Doo-Hwan.

Roh issued a statement declaring that disputes over the former president's alleged wrongdoings during his seven-year rule had been resolved by Chun's daylong testimony in Parliament on Sunday.

"I know that some people are not satisfied with his testimony... but if there is more to be clarified, it should be left to history," Roh said on nation-wide radio and television.

The "salt" discussion of past issues is inconclusive and must not be allowed to continue to split Korean society.

"I declare that I, as President responsible for all state affairs, will resolutely close the case regardless of who tries to make an issue of it," he said.

Roh said Chun's testimony fulfilled a "grand compromise" reached between him and opposition leaders on Dec 15. As part of the compromise, two former generals who had served under Chun — Chung Ho-Yong and Lee Hui-Sung — resigned from politics.

Although the head of the biggest opposition party wanted political charges brought against Chun, all other major political parties contacted by the Associated Press indicated they would not make an issue of Chun's testimony.

Beijing raps US on pupils

BEIJING, Jan 3, (Reuter): China's education chief warned in a tough policy speech published today that Beijing might retaliate for US decisions to let Chinese students fearing persecution remain in the United States.

Li Tieying, head of the state education commission, also called for stricter political tests for Chinese students sent abroad and said some colleges would have to be merged or even closed.

His speech, carried on the front page of the People's Daily, was the latest in a string of hardline education policies laid down since the government smashed student-led demonstrations for democracy in June.

"The United States has violated a Sino-US agreement on educational exchanges, and grossly interfered in our internal affairs," Li told members of China's parliament late last month and published for the first time today.

"We will be forced to take necessary action (against the US policy) at the appropriate time," he said.

He did not say specifically what steps might be taken but he hinted at tighter controls on determining which students were allowed to study abroad.

In November President George Bush vetoed a bill introduced by Congress that would have allowed all Chinese students in the United States to remain there even if their visas expired.

Legislators came up with the bill in reaction to the bloody army crackdown in Beijing.

Despite his veto, Bush promised to grant extensions to students able to show they feared persecution on return to China. Congressional leaders were nevertheless angry and said they would override the veto when they returned from recess this month.

A review board has upheld a ban on a Taiwanese documentary film about the pro-democracy movement in Beijing, fearing it might upset communist China, the board chairman said Wednesday.

The government television and entertainment licensing authority last month to ban a 16-minute segment from the documentary "Mainland China 1989," which was to be shown twice as part of a film programme at the Hong Kong Arts Centre.



Cycling servicemen

Members of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) cycle in Guangzhou. One of them carries a 107 Uzi machine-gun in the front basket of his cycle. (Reuter wirephoto)

Negotiations continuing

China denies deal on Fang

BEIJING, Jan 3, (UPI): China dismissed today as "speculation" reports of a deal to free the country's leading dissident from refuge in the US embassy but Western diplomats and Chinese sources said the negotiations were continuing.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry statement came after a Hong Kong magazine reported the dissident, astrophysicist Fang Lizhi, and his wife, Li Shuxian, would be allowed to leave for Australia under an agreement negotiated with the United States.

An Australian government spokesman in Canberra denied the report. But the Chinese statement fell short of a flat denial and appeared to leave the door open for a bargain.

The only way out for Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian is to plead guilty immediately and meander their ways so as not to alienate themselves from the people," the Foreign Ministry said.

Speculation about the couple's release has intensified since US President George Bush's controversial initiative last month to improve relations with Beijing. The administration is known to want concessions from China to stave off sharp criticism in Congress.

Fang and Li have lived in the US embassy since taking refuge there last June 5, two days after the Chinese Army fired on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing and brutally suppressed the massive demonstrations that swept the nation last spring.

A week later, Chinese authorities issued arrest warrants for Fang and Li, charging they instigated what the government has branded a "counter-revolutionary rebellion." If captured, the couple face lengthy prison terms.

"The recent rumours about the question of Fang Lizhi floating around abroad and overseas are speculation pure and simple," the Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said, reiterating that the embassy refuge was "inference in China's internal affairs."

Western diplomats and Chinese sources, although unaware of the details of the talks, said negotiations had been under way for some time and appeared to be nearing a conclusion.

The US embassy has declined to comment on Fang. Senior US officials in Beijing privately have been attempting to play down reports from Washington quoting administration officials as saying a deal had been concluded.

The Chinese statement appeared to leave room for some form of bargain, saying "this problem can only be solved according to the laws of China" and the United States was "obligated to work for its settlement."

Western analysts believe the Fang issue has become a dispute between moderate Chinese leaders seeking improved relations with Washington and hardliners arguing that allowing the couple's release would show a lack of resolve.

Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin told visiting Hong Kong newspaper executives last month that Fang would have to show "repentance," suggesting the leadership was seeking a face-saving device as a catalyst for releasing the couple.

The Bush administration also faces a time problem, as the US Congress resumes session Jan 23 amid simmering outrage over last month's surprise trip to Beijing by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft in a bid to improve relations. Critics have derided the move as "kowtowing."

US efforts to oust Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega from the Vatican embassy in Panama City may be directly complicating the fate of Fang.

VACANCY

Library Assistant

The British Council has an immediate vacancy for a part-time library assistant (24 hours per week). Fluent English essential. Library experience and some knowledge of Arabic preferred.

Application forms to be returned by 10 January 90 and more details from the British Council, 2 Al Arabi Street, Mansouriah.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

G.C.E. June 1990 Examinations

Tel: 2515512/533204/533227

Candidates wishing to sit the above examination in Kuwait should apply to the British Council, behind Al-Arabi Stadium, Mansouriah, Block 2, before 10th January 1990 at the latest. No late entries can be accepted after the closing date.

10 Indonesians saved

Airliner dives

JAKARTA, Jan 3, (UPI): Ten of 16 people aboard an Indonesian airliner that made an emergency landing in the Java Sea have been rescued from rough waters, searchers and company officials said today. "We have received a report from rescue teams in the area that they have picked up eight survivors," a company official told United Press International.

Later, rescue officials said they received a report that a fishing vessel rescued a mother and her child.

Rescue officials said one of the survivors was the plane's co-pilot, who suffered only minor injuries in the ditching at sea. Few details of the sea landing were available.

The twin-engine Casa C-212 of Indonesia's Pelita Air Service, carrying 13 passengers and a crew of three, made an emergency landing yesterday near Pabelokan Island in the Thousand Islands chain, about 60 miles (90 km) northwest of Jakarta.

The Casa plane was en route from Palembang in central Sumatra to Jakarta on an inspection flight, officials said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asia

Heat wave sweeps Australia: Heat wave conditions Wednesday swept south and eastern Australia, threatening sunbathers with skin cancer and melting rubberised court surfaces at a tennis tournament in Brisbane.

Weather bureau officials said the mercury shot up to at least 109 degrees Fahrenheit (43C) in some areas.

In Sydney, hundreds of people were treated for heat exhaustion and doctors warned sunbathers seeking relief at the beaches they risked skin cancer with four hours of exposure in the fierce sun and heat.

Dr Greg Lashof of Sydney's Prince Alfred Hospital said a mere 10 minutes in the sun between 10 am and 2 pm was enough to cause serious sunburn.

** * *

69 people executed in 1989: Taiwan has recorded a record 69 people in 1989, more than triple the number shot the previous year, a Justice Ministry spokesman said on Wednesday.

Taiwan law allows the death penalty for murder, rape, kidnapping, gang robbery and other serious crimes. Executions are often carried out with a shot through the heart while the criminal lies face down in a sandpit.

The spokesman said in a telephone interview 22 people were executed in 1988, and 94 people between 1978 and 1988.

The country of 20 million people has been plagued by a crime wave, with almost daily reports of robberies, kidnappings, shoot-outs and murders.

Police smash gambling den: Taiwanese police have uncovered a gambling den of deaf-mutes whose most important tool was a fax machine.

Police in the central city of Hsinchu said on Wednesday they had recently smashed the ring, made up of scores of deaf-mutes from all over the island.

The club's organizer, also a deaf-mute, used a facsimile machine to communicate the details of each gambling session, where speculators would wager hefty stakes on the traditional Chinese game of Mahjong.

Burma lifts martial law: Burma's military rulers have lifted a martial law order in 10 townships in northwestern Burma, the official Rangoon Radio reported.

"Since the law and order security conditions have improved in the jurisdiction of the northwest military command, martial law is hereby revoked," the radio said Tuesday, quoting from a proclamation signed by the military intelligence chief, Brig. Gen. Khin Nyunt.

A text of the broadcast was seen Wednesday in Bangkok.

** * *

Japan may send official to Phnom Penh to assess situation

BANGKOK, Thailand, Jan 3, (AP): Japan is considering sending a government official to Cambodia for the first time since Vietnam invaded the country in late 1978, a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

Kondo, who arrived in Bangkok yesterday for an official visit,

Kondo said Japan wanted the trip made "as soon as possible," but no date has been decided. Another Japanese official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it could be next month and most likely would be made by Masaharu Kohno, a middle-ranking South East Asia specialist at the ministry.

It would be the first such visit since Vietnam invaded and installed another communist government to replace the Khmer Rouge government, which had killed hundreds of thousands of people.

Kondo said the visit would be informal and

"does not mean that Japan recognises the... regime as the legitimate government."

■ A senior Australian envoy Michael Costello will meet the head of the Khmer Rouge on Thursday or Friday to try to persuade him to accept Canberra's plan to place Cambodia under temporary United Nations administration, diplomats said.

They said Costello, a deputy secretary in the department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, will meet secretly in Bangkok with Khieu Samphan, who leads the strongest of the three Cambodian resistance groups.

HUSSAIN F. AL-OMAR EST.

General Agents for Aiwa Electronics Co., Japan

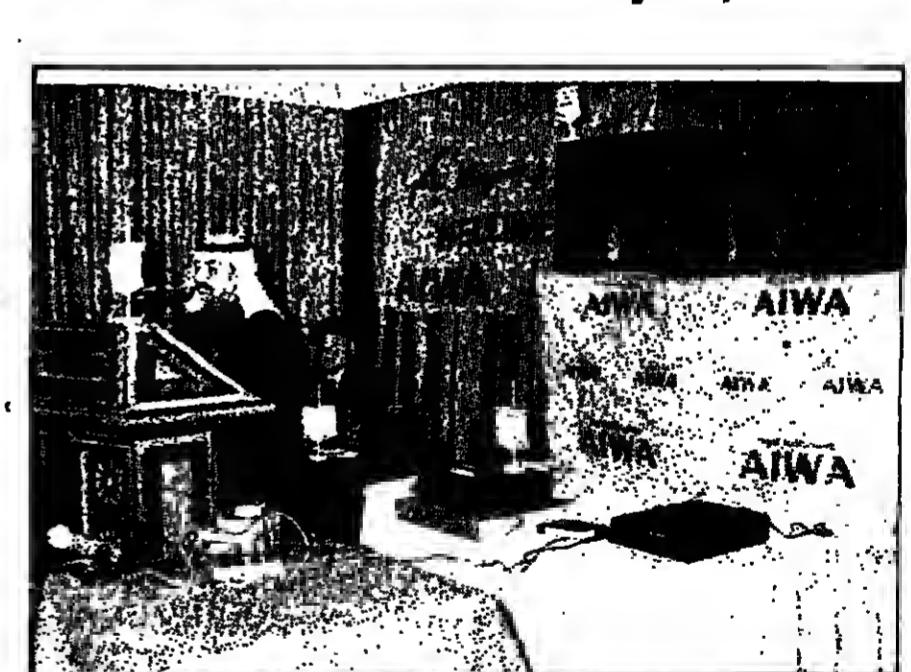
organised a seminar recently at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel

It was well attended by local electronic dealers and the Aiwa staff especially arrived from Japan for this seminar. Several latest Aiwa Products including VCR, VCP, Tele-video, Walkman, Car Stereos, Hi-Fi System, Cassette Decks, etc. were displayed in the function.

Mr Ali H.F. Al-Omar, General Manager, opening the seminar introduced latest models which are unique in the market considering the quality and prices.

While Mr Kawasaki, Aiwa Overseas Marketing Manager, spoke on high performance of Aiwa products and Mr M. Tabata, Chief Engineer and Mr Y. Taniwaki, M.E. Manager, have demonstrated the new features of VCRs and VCPs performance combined with auto voltage power supply and digital auto tracking achievement, with advanced technology.

The function was concluded with dinner and vote of thanks was presented by Mr Ali Al Omar.



Mr Ali Al Omar & Mr Kawasaki can be seen in the above picture.



Mr Tabata explaining the new features of Aiwa VCRs & VCPs.



Mr Hussain Al Omar, chairman of Al Omar Est.

Thai army chief to be PM

BANGKOK, Jan 3, (UPI): Cabinet ministers yesterday welcomed Prime Minister Chatichai's proposal for Army Commander Gen. Chavalit Yongchayudh to follow him as prime minister after a stint as defence minister.

Chatichai, in an interview with the Thai language newspaper Daily News, said he would like Chavalit to become the next prime minister after first serving as defence minister.

Chavalit, 56, has said he will resign from the military this year and is expected to begin a political career. He has been critical of corruption among the civilian political parties and has called for more justice in the distribution of wealth in fast-growing Thailand.

The army chief, already noted as the political broker who patched together Thailand's last coalition government, has not yet indicated which party he will join.

Deputy Prime Minister Gen. Thienchai Sirisamporn said he agreed with Chatichai's plans for Chavalit but on the condition that Chavalit enter the cabinet via election.

It is legally possible, under the current constitution, for the prime minister to nominate cabinet members who are not elected Members of Parliament, but the current cabinet includes only one such unelected member.

No general elections are scheduled until 1992, but several Members of Parliament have offered to resign to make way for Chavalit's ascension in a by-election.

"It should be like that," said Thienchai who is also the leader of Rassada Party.

INTERNATIONAL

Crisis talks open in Sofia

SOFIA, Jan 3, (Agencies): Communist Party leaders today opened talks with opposition groups that could lead to a transitional government and an end to the communists' guaranteed supremacy in Bulgaria.

Delegations from the ruling communists, the Bulgarian Agrarian Party and a delegation of the Union of Democratic Forces met in the National Assembly (Parliament) the official BTA news agency said.

The talks began after the parties consulted with other public organisations and workers' unions, the agency said. It gave no other details.

The talks came after the independent trade union, Podkrepa, one of the groups in the UDF, last week threatened a general strike if the communists did not agree to share power.

Pressure

The strike, which would have been the first such work stoppage in Bulgaria since World War II, was called off after the communists agreed to the round-table talks.

But pressure for change continued, with demonstrations by several thousand students and others supporting opposition demands for more democracy and Bulgarian Turks and other Muslim demanding an end to assimilation and discrimination.

Communist leader and President Peter Mladenov, who replaced hard-line party chief Todor Zhivkov Nov. 10, has pledged widespread reforms and free elections by May.

Opposition groups allowed to operate since Zhivkov's ouster have one demand in common—an end to the communists' monopoly on power.

A special parliamentary session has been moved up to Jan 15 to discuss scrapping article 1 of the constitution that guarantees the party a "leading role" in society.

But reform is complicated by ethnic tensions. The communists' decision last week to return minority rights to Bulgaria's ethnic Turkish population sparked mass demonstrations in favour and against the decision.

Separated

In Kardzhali, some 350 kilometres (250 miles) southeast of Sofia, a committee for the defence of national interests was formed last week by communists and non-communists, to protest the decision.

In a declaration to be handed to Parliament, the committee charged that the leadership "had once again taken categorical and irreversible decisions (and) forced its dictates on the popular opinion."

After a one-day meeting of the Communist Party central committee on Friday, Andrei Lukyanov, the party's second in command, advocated a separation of party and state functions and "a complete and final de-Stalinisation of the party."

He promised the communists would step down if they lost the elections.

Fate

Two months after the fall of dictator Todor Zhivkov, the Communist Party he led has not yet decided his fate.

But Lukyanov said Zhivkov's future would be decided by "law...not passion," a reference to the summary execution of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Lukyanov, in an interview with Reuters yesterday, also said the party had an important future role to play and the loss of its guaranteed monopoly on power did not mean the communists were ready to "self-destruct."

The Bulgarian Communist Party has preserved not all but a great part of its heritage and its ability for politics," Lukyanov said.

"How big a role and what role exactly is perhaps too presumptuous to say now but I am quite sure that it will preserve an important role in Bulgarian political life."

Lukyanov, Soviet-educated economist, was one of a new generation of reform-minded technocrats elevated to full politburo membership after the expulsion of Zhivkov on Nov. 10 and a purge of other hardline conservatives.

Laws

Lukyanov, who heads a commission of inquiry into past malpractices in "social and economic life" — a euphemism for corruption — indicated there were no immediate plans to bring Zhivkov to trial.

Referring to neighbouring Romania, where Ceausescu was executed on Dec 25 after a summary trial, he said Bulgaria would find its own way of dealing with the problem of a "personal dictatorship."

5 Lisbon ministers sacked

Heavy losses in local elections

LISBON, Jan 3, (AP): Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva sacked five ministers in his center-right government today, including the architect of the government's programme to liberalise the economy, a spokesman said.

The move comes two weeks after the governing Social Democratic Party sustained heavy losses in local elections.

The government spokesman said among ministers fired were controversial Finance Minister Miguel Cadilhe, Defence Minister Enrico de Melo and Health Minister Leonor Beleza.

Also out of the cabinet are Agriculture Minister Alvaro Barreto, and Jose Silveira

Godinho, the minister of internal administration.

All five were leading figures in the government formed after the Social Democrats won 1987 elections. Yesterday's reshuffle was the first major change to a team built to reduce state economic control and modernise the country to the levels of its partners in the European Economic Committee, which Portugal joined in 1986 as the poorest member.

Press reports said De Melo resigned his position as defence minister and deputy prime minister in protest after Cavaco Silva decided to replace the four other ministers following the party's defeat at the hands of the

Socialist Party in nation-wide municipal elections Dec 17.

In a letter to Cavaco Silva quoted by the national Lusa news agency, De Melo said his decision followed "a weakening of confidence and political support for his positions."

Cavaco Silva presented five new ministers to President Mario Soares. They include Miguel Beleza, brother of the outgoing health minister, who is slated to be the next finance minister.

Miguel Beleza, a director of the Bank of Portugal, supports government plans to privatise state-owned companies and reduce government control of the economy.



Havel puts his hand through the Berlin Wall during his first trip abroad since becoming President. (Reuter wirephoto)

Concrete issues discussed

Havel visits Germanys

MUNICH, Jan 3, (UPI): Czechoslovakia reform President Vaclav Havel met the leaders of both Germanys during brief visits to East Berlin and Munich, and said he would like to someday say "Ich bin ein Berliner" as President Kennedy did more than 26 years ago.

After talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Munich, Havel said yesterday he decided to visit both Germanys the same day to show his approval of the recent rapprochement between the two states.

He said the visits were originally meant to have only "a symbolic character" but that they turned out to be "working visits."

"We managed to discuss many concrete issues," he said. During his visit to East Berlin, Havel drove past the Berlin Wall with his host, head of state Manfred Gerlach, who told him the wall would soon be pulled down.

Havel told journalists he would like to say "Ich bin ein Berliner" — as did President Kennedy during his visit to Berlin in June 1963, two years after the wall was built.

"I would like to take the liberty to repeat this sentence at

a new time and in a new context," Havel said during his brief visit before flying on to West Germany.

Havel said all walls and barriers in Europe must fall.

In response to a question, Havel said he was opposed to the death penalty, but said last week's execution of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife may have saved many lives.

After talks with Gerlach and Prime Minister Hans Modrow, Havel praised recent developments in East Germany, which has moved away from the Stalinist policies it adhered to since it founded 40 years ago.

"All of us European must thank the GDR (East Germany) for having started pulling down one of the worst walls," said Havel, a playwright and essayist, who gained prominence during the spring 1968 uprising in Prague that was crushed by Warsaw Pact tanks.

"This decade must become the decade of Europeans," said Kohl after meeting with Havel in Munich.

The Czechoslovak leader also met with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, President Richard von Weizsaecker and opposition leader Hans-Jochen Vogel.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Romanians honoured

A tank driver passes by a shrine where people light candles in memory of victims killed during the downfall of the Ceausescu government in central Bucharest, Jan 1. (Reuter wirephoto)

make regular surveillance overflights.

"A C-130 type military cargo plane of the Canadian Air Force will perform test flights in Hungarian airspace between Jan 4 and 7," the radio said, quoting a Foreign Ministry statement. (UPI)

Conservatives advise follow-thinkers: Ruling Conservative party legislators said Tuesday they are helping like-minded people in Eastern Europe to organise similar parties which have not been known there for more than 40 years.

"I am flabbergasted at the support for Conservative ideas in Eastern Europe," said Henry Bellingham, chairman of the conservative council on Eastern Europe.

"We see enormous opportunities for the emergence of conservatism in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia," he said in a recent interview. (AP)

Surveillance flights: A Canadian airforce plane will make surveillance flights over Hungary this week as part of a new East-West initiative. Hungarian radio said on Wednesday.

The radio said the flights between Thursday and Sunday would be part of preparations for talks on an "open skies" treaty under which North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and Warsaw Pact states could

be taken over by bushes and undergrowth. (UPI)

Marx's grave is set in a section of the huge, rambling Victorian cemetery in the fashionable north London suburb of Highgate, which has largely been taken over by bushes and undergrowth. (UPI)

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Turkey may cut size of army

ANKARA, Jan 3, (Reuters): Turkey may reduce the size of its armed forces in the light of East-West developments but plans to push ahead with an ambitious military modernisation programme, defence officials said.

"After there is agreement at the CFE (conventional forces in Europe) talks it is possible we may reduce our forces," General Necip Torunay, chief of Turkey's general staff, told Reuters.

He did not indicate any possible size of cut in the 660,000-strong armed forces, which guard one third of Nato's frontiers with Warsaw Pact countries and are the largest in the alliance after the United States.

Aoun aide escapes attempt on life

BEIRUT, Jan 3, (Reuters): Gunmen tried to assassinate a senior officer loyal to defiant Christian General Michel Aoun at dawn today, killing five people but missing the man they sought to kill, security sources said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Adel Sassis was away from his home in the Christian mountain town of Broummana when the attackers opened fire with machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades.

Sassis is head of military police in the Lebanese army units loyal to Aoun.

It was the first reported assassination attempt against an official loyal to Aoun since the general refused to submit to the authority of Lebanon's President Elias Hrawi and rejected the appointment of General Emile Lahoud as new army chief.

Four of those killed were soldiers guarding the residence of Sassis, a Greek Orthodox, in the village, eight miles (13 kilometres) east of Beirut, Aoun's command said in a communiqué.

It identified the fifth casualty as Saliba Youssef, a Christian civilian whose gunshot body was found in a pine forest near Sassis's house.

Police said they believed Youssef was one of the attackers.

The sources said rockets destroyed one room, and the unidentified gunman "then opened fire on a tent where 100 soldiers" who guard the house were sleeping. Four soldiers were killed and three wounded.

Witnesses said the fleeing gunmen shot dead a civilian who saw the attack.

Hrawi was elected president by Christian and Muslim deputies on Nov 24 shortly after a bomb blast killed newly-elected President Rene Muawad.

Reforms needed for unity, says South Yemen

ABU DHABI, Jan 3, (Reuters): South Yemen's Prime Minister Yasseen said "No man was quoted today as saying a planned merger with North Yemen needed more democratic reforms."

"We feel that continuation of reforms is the only way to achieve unity," he told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej newspaper.

"To ensure a guaranteed approach to unity, we have to intensify moves for democracy and reforms." No man said.

Leaders of North and South Yemen signed a draft constitution in Aden in Nov 30, 1989, setting a one-year timetable for unification in a multi-party state.

Marxist South Yemen has already begun moves towards political pluralism after years of one-party rule. North Yemen has no political parties.

North Yemen's Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani said in remarks published yesterday that Marxism was an alien creed and stressed that plans to unite the countries included multi-party politics.

Aden's Marxism "was a constant danger for the neighbouring (political) systems of the region," Iryani said.

Egypt to build F-16 jetfighters

KUWAIT, Jan 3, (Kuwait): Egyptian State Minister for Military Industries Jamal Al Sayed was quoted here today as saying Cairo can now meet the military hardware requirements of several Arab and African countries.

Egypt has successfully developed various types of advanced weapons which combine the best qualities of eastern and western arms, the minister told a Kuwaiti daily newspaper in an interview.

Al Sayed boasted that Egypt was in the process of producing the world's latest type of tanks, the US-built M-1, and has won a contract to build the US F-16 jetfighter.

Western military sources said Turkey, which borders the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Nato-allied Greece, could afford a cut of up to 150,000 men.

"Such a cut would not affect Turkey's combat capability," one source said.

"There are quite a few troops, sailors and airmen doing tasks such as shoe-cleaning and waiting at officers' clubs."

The 23-nation CFE talks in Vienna, trying to negotiate force reductions from the Atlantic to the Urals, are widely expected to end in agreement later this year.

Troop reduction is a sensitive issue in Turkey.

Some opposition parliamentarians, who frequently point with concern to three

military interventions in domestic politics between 1960 and 1980, want reductions and facilities earmarked for military construction to be used for civilian purposes.

But officials said Turkey, still using some World War Two-vintage warships and 40-year-old US-designed battle tanks, would continue a \$10-billion drive for modern equipment, including armoured vehicles and US-designed F-16 fighters.

"Greece is the only democratic country among our neighbours. You cannot know who will do what and when," Defence Minister Safa Giray told reporters this week.

Parliament last week approved a calendar 1990 defence budget equivalent to \$3.4

billion, double last year's figure and about 13 per cent of the total national budget.

Giray, of the centre-right Motherland Party which has held office since three years of army rule ended in 1983, appeared to rule out any quick reduction in the armed forces.

"Iraq uses \$20 billion of its \$50 billion budget for military expenditure. Other neighbours also spend more than us," he said.

"Given these conditions, a reduction in the number of troops and in the period of military service cannot be thought of. Our troops are not much if we consider our territorial integrity and population," he added.

PLO separates warring Shiites

Lebanon freezes arms talks

KFAR HATA, Lebanon, Jan 3, (Agencies): Commandos loyal to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat deployed at a frontline in South Lebanon today to separate warring Shiite militias and keep fighting away from refugee camps.

Security sources said the battles between the pro-Syrian Amal and Iranian-backed Hezbollah eased when 300 men of Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement deployed at a strategic hill in Iqlim Al Tufah, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut.

They said the move was not previously agreed by the battling Shiite militias, but they ordered their fighters not to open fire at the Palestinian commandos.

Palestinian sources said the deployment aimed at keeping the 12-day-old fighting away from the camps of Ain Al Helweh and Miye Mieh, a few km (miles) north of Iqlim Al Tufah.

The Palestinians last week reinforced their positions in areas between Iqlim Al Tufah and the settlements, Arafat's strongest base in Lebanon.

Security sources said Arafat feared that Hezbollah, which gained the upper hand in the fighting and captured five villages, would provide support to anti-Arafat Palestinians in the camps.

Amal still controlled Kfar Hata and two nearby hills.

Amal and Hezbollah officials refused to comment on the deployment. Neither militia keeps good relations with Arafat.

An Amal field commander told Reuters he had orders from the militia's chief Nabih Berri not to open fire on the PLO force.

Berri has said he would not order a truce until Hezbollah left newly-captured positions and refused the deployment of any disengagement force. "Palestine or otherwise," he said.

Witnesses said the calm was breached by sporadic rounds of artillery by the rival militiamen crept out of their trenches.

The sources said Hezbollah handed over to the Palestinians a strategic hill they had captured.

Amal ousted Hezbollah from South Lebanon in April 1988 and the pro-Iranian radicals

Aoun says his accounts no secret

PARIS, Jan 3, (AP): Gen. Michel Aoun, the Lebanese Christian leader, said today his French bank accounts were no secret, but may be closed now that they have been disclosed in new reports.

The satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaine* published in today's edition a reproduction of a bank statement showing two US dollar accounts in Aoun's name at the Banque Nationale de Paris, one with a balance of \$500,000, the other with \$14.7 million.

"It's not a secret for anyone. It's an open secret," Aoun said today in an interview on the state-run radio station France Inter. He said he had accounts in other French banks, as well as in the United States and Lebanon.

Aoun said the news reports of his account "displeases me so much that I want to close the accounts in France, withdraw the money tomorrow morning."

Italized by driving Amal from Beirut's southern suburbs a month later.

The government said today it has suspended negotiations to buy arms from the United States, France, Italy, Belgium and Holland.

A government statement said Lebanese diplomatic missions in Washington, Paris, Rome, Brussels and Amsterdam have been instructed to "freeze current and scheduled negotiations for arms, spare parts and ammunition" for

the Lebanese Army.

All military shipments to the

Lebanese Army have been halted and funds earmarked to the

military attaché's office of these

missions were suspended, the

statement said. It mentioned no

figures.

It was released by the press office of Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who doubles as foreign minister in President Elias Hrawi's government of national reconciliation.

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Study on private sector role in investment

THE secretariat of the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the Gulf has said that post-economic boom era is characterised by the greater role assigned to the private sector in the national investment field and bridge the huge gap in the receding investments sponsored by the state.

A study issued by the Secretariat pointed out that the private sector has been given an ample chance to prove its capability to overcome obstacles that hampered its active involvement in state-sponsored investment due to differing factors. Mainly, these are low demand rates, inadequacy of customs protection measures, frustration caused by accumulating failures and lack of initiative on the part of investors. That led to increased involvement by the private sector in future-oriented prospects.

The study added that investment spending consisted of steady investment and the change in the stocks value and housing activities, pointing out to a gross increase in the Gulf capital in 1984 by 31 per cent of the GDP, compared to only 21 per cent during 1980.

The study said that the Arab Gulf countries

owned more than 60 per cent of the total capital assets in the Arab world in 1984, which was the result of large-sized programmes of industrial investment and infrastructural development.

The study provided a percentage break-down for the Gulf capital, in which the Saudi kingdom took the lead owning 52 per cent of total capital in 1984, and Iraq 23.3 per cent, the UAE 10.2 per cent bringing the total share of all three countries to 85.5 per cent.

The rest of the Gulf countries had varying percentages ranging between 5.8 per cent for Kuwait, 3.1 Oman, 3.1 Bahrain and 2.5 Qatar.

The study pointed out that the prospective success of the private sector lies in its ability to carry out functions of control, and review of the changing events.

The study stressed that to fulfill the private sector's objectives to grow and prosper, it had to base all its objectives on the need to meet the changing requirements of the society whereby it could turn these requirements into investment opportunity.

Lawyer held for contempt of court

FOR the first time in the annals of Kuwait's judiciary, a judge at a local court ordered the detention of a lawyer for contempt of court.

The lawyer identified as Ruwais Al Harbi was cited for contempt of court and ordered to be held for 24 hours for failure to abide by a previous order not to talk with his client during the hearings.

• A local daily reported that an Iraqi lady, a resident of Jeeb Al Shiyoukh committed suicide on New Year's Eve.

No details have been released as at the time of going to press, though investigations are in progress.

• The body of a lady aged 63 years was found totally burnt in a fire at her residence.

The corpse has been referred to the forensic medicine department for further investigations.

• Securitymen arrested a businessman upon arrival in Kuwait from France for issuing a dud cheque in the amount of KD half a million.

The accused has been handed over to the general prosecution.



Auto-mechanic workshop

The second phase of the auto-mechanics workshop opened yesterday at the vocational development centre of the Public Authority for Applied Education. A number of car companies are taking part in the workshop

which will last for three days. Director of the centre Dr Ahmad Bozubr said that the workshop aims at improving auto-mechanical curricula in Kuwait.

Stray dogs bite 2 men

TWO Kuwaiti youths were reportedly attacked by stray dogs at Jeeb Al Shiyoukh, a local daily reported.

The two youths were bitten by the dogs as they left a popular cafe and were stepping into their car.

The victim told a local daily that he was not at all surprised by the attack of the stray dogs — rather he was surprised that such an attack had not occurred much earlier in view of the several complaints raised that the area had become a breeding ground for stray dogs.

Gulf education meet

RIYADH, Jan 3 (Kuna): General director of the Arab education office for Arabian Gulf countries Dr Ali Ben Mohammed Al-Tuwajeri said here today the regular 27th session of the executive council of the office will begin in Manama in mid January.

In a press statement Tuwajeri added the agenda of the three-day meetings will include approval of resolutions and suggestions made in the last two sessions and a review of a report by the director-general on the past previous sessions.

Tuwajeri also said the executive council will discuss achievements made by the office in the previous fiscal year and plans for the upcoming one.

The council will discuss a number of studies about new subjects and issues that need to be decided upon or directed by the council.

A suggestion made by the deans of the Arabian Gulf university concerning the addition of a new rule that will allow to increase the acceptance of Arab students with a tuition fee, will also be discussed by the council.

Manakh dealer gets 6-year jail

CRIMINAL Court sentenced a Manakh dealer identified as Ahmad Al Muhamma to six years imprisonment with hard labour for smuggling KD\$ million outside the country and issuing dud cheques.

The accused was arrested in Tunisia three months ago and later extradited to Kuwait to face trial.

The court was told that he was one of the big indebted dealers referred to the Post Dated Deals Settlement establishment formed after the Manakh crashed in 1982.

Warm welcome

The members of the Sri Lankan Guild in Kuwait took the opportunity to give a warm welcome to the newly appointed Sri Lankan Ambassador His Excellency Latif Sharif Deen to Kuwait recently. Welcoming the ambassador, the Secretary Religious Affairs, Miss

Yolan Desilva offered a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Sharif Deen and the president Maurice Perera with a handful of better leave in accordance with the Sri Lankan customary package.

EVENTS



Lufthansa opens direct Kuwait-Karachi flight

On Sunday Dec 10, Lufthansa started its first direct flight operations from Kuwait to Karachi. Guests on the first flight included personalities from the Pakistani community dealing with the travel business. Lufthansa distributed souvenir gifts to the crew for the occasion. Picture shows Lufthansa passengers boarding the first flight.

The Picture shows Lufthansa passengers boarding the first flight.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints

THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Hobby centre

A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5616847 or 5317354.

SOCIAL

Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sounsharant Astana Dial" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar.

All that Jazz again

REMY D'Mello presents the "Best of Jazz" in Kuwait with Jack Boub, the Istimql Jazz Quintet and the Kuwait Happy Times Jazz Orchestra. It will be held on Sunday, Jan 7, at 7 pm. For details and reservations please call 5335068; 5623194 or 5389219.

VISHAL Musical Group

VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their second Musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at Funaites, Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films, as well as classical and fast dances by young talented artists. There will be a lucky draw and tea served at the end of the show. For gate passes contact: 2412970 (Raja Stores), 4317290 (Shahin Video) or 4318290 (Rhythm Cassette Shop).

Saaz Aur Aawaz

FEb 2: Saaz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bise Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

Top Ranks

DUE to prior engagement "The Top Ranks" will be unable to play at the Ramada Al Salam on January 5, 1990. Inconvenience to fans is regretted.

People's Trust Club

JAN 1: People's Trust Club welcomes you to A Day of Your Life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Stepping Stones and Top Ranks, are ready to provide music of 1990s. People's Trust Club apologizes for the postponement of this show last month.

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28 February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

The Carnival Nite

"THE Entertainers" proudly announces for the first time in Kuwait "The Carnival Nite" which is scheduled to be held at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel's Le Mirage main ballroom on 22nd February 1990. Besure to be there with all your grit and glamorous costumes to witness this traditional event. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers will rhythm out their best musical performance for this occasion.

Canadian Women's League

JAN 6: An invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this month's meeting to be held Saturday January 6 from 4-6 pm in Qur-tuba. For more information please call 5315655 or 2563025.

German-Speaking Cultural Association

THE next coffee morning, on the first Sunday of each month like always, will be held on Jan 7, 10 am, at the Kuwait International Hotel, Old Falakha Room. All German-speakers, particularly newcomers, welcome.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Salmiyah
Hall Booked
Al Haarsa
Licence to kill
Drive-in
W.L.L.O.W
Al Firdous
Yatcem
Fahsheel
Salim Jawed
Al Jabra
Arabic film
Granada
Fahsheel
Salabikhat
Dragon Braces Lee II
Jeeb
Main Azaad Hoon
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

FRIDAY

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Salmiyah
Hall Booked
Al Haarsa
Licence to kill
Drive-in
W.L.L.O.W
Al Firdous
Yatcem
Fahsheel
Salim Jawed
Al Jabra
Cold Steel
Granada
Man on Fire
Salabikhat
Moontrap
Jeeb
Main Azaad Hoon
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

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Wajif Souq
Al Montaser Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber St.

Hawalli & Nagra
Al Ikhlas Pharmacy
Beirut St.

Salmiyah and Ramaithiya
Sahara Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.

Fahsheel & Ahmadi
Burjan Pharmacy
Al Sabah Souq

Jeeb Al Shiyoskh
Al Razi Pharmacy
Plot 17, Block 14

Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
The New Market

PRAYERS

Fajr 5:18
Zohr 11:53
Asr 2:44
Maghreb 5:02
Isha 6:25

FRIDAY
Fajr 5:19 am
Zohr 11:53
Asr 2:45 pm
Maghreb 5:05
Isha 6:26

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
9.15 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
9.30 Cartoons
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.15 Rejal Fi Al Masyada: Arabic serial (part 3), starring Muna Abdul Ghani, Mohammed Redha, Raia Al Jeddawi, Fuad Khaled

11.30 The Open University: cultural programme

12.00 Sabah Al Kher, news and Variety

12.15 Hawar Wa Nagham: local programme, prepared by Khaled

2.00 News Summary

3.00 The Friday Break: Local programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader

4.00 Al Hob We Sneeno: Arabic serial (part 1), starring Hussain Fahmi, Isaaq Younis and Abu Baker Ezzat

5.00 Bereen: Cartoon serial

5.30 Cartoons

5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements

6.00 KTV Programmes In a Week

6.30 Kuwait In A Week: News programme, prepared and presented by Kuwait Television News Control

7.00 The Living Planet: Cultural programme (part 1)

8.00 Maa Al Osra: Local family programme, prepared by Tahani Al Burthiqi, and presented by Fatema Rashed and Fottah Al Dalal

8.45 Man Al Talaba: local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Education

8.50 Kul Al Fonoon: local programme, prepared by Hasan Awara, and presented by Rasha Majdi

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Asma Laha Thekra: Local variety programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader, presented by Fatema

10.30 News Summary

11.35 The World Today via Satellite

12.00 News in English

12.30 Magazine D'Actualite

1.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran

2.10 The Smurfs, A cartoon series for children

3.30 Mr Wizard's World. A variety of magic acts and illusions... training children how to use or deal with information

4.00 Wild America, "Pennsylvania White Tail". A look at deer with white tails found in Pennsylvania which were able to adapt their lives with the presence of human beings...

5.00 My Secret Identity. "The eyes of the shadow". The kidnappers of the Chinese

6.10 Sheikhs Salah Abu Ismael

7.30 Mystery Wheel "Dancer's Touch". A criminal attacks teenager girls and young women without leaving any trace to help chasing him. "Mr Striker" an old cop is called to solve this mystery.

8.45 Rescue 911. The Weekend Programme. A weekly local programme on variety of topics, local activities and events

10.00 Roseanne "Dan's Birthday". The kids celebrate their dad's birthday while Dan and Roseanne plan to spend the night outside the house!!

10.30 Mystery Wheel "Dancer's Touch". A criminal attacks teenager

Khalifa, Mubarak discuss Arab, global issues

Egypt-Qatar bonds stronger

CAIRO, Jan 3. (Kuna): Visiting Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani today met with Arab ambassadors in Cairo and later accompanied President Hosni Mubarak on a visit to Sharm Al Sheikh in Sinai for an inspection visit to a number of industrial projects in the area.

Following the meeting with the Arab diplomats, Sheikh Khalifa told reporters that the talks touched on the outcome of his discussions with Mubarak which included Arab, Islamic and international issues topped by the Palestinian question.

On the Qatari-Egyptian relations, Sheikh Khalifa said they are significant and that he had agreed with Mubarak to push those relations forward.

On Qatari-Egyptian co-operation, Sheikh Khalifa pointed out the Qatari participation in a number of Egyptian projects.

On possible future co-operation between the Gulf Co-operation Council and the Arab Co-operation Council, Sheikh Khalifa replied "why not since all GCC leaders have visited Egypt."

The Amir of Qatar, on his first visit to Egypt in 18 years, held a round of talks with President Mubarak while ministers from the two countries concluded a number of co-operation agreements covering economic, agricultural, information, transport, communications and tourist spheres.

The two sides agreed to facilitate the flow of news, television and radio programmes, and distribution of newspapers in their countries.

The agreement was initiated by the Qatari Minister of Information and Culture, Sheikh Hamad Bin Suhaim and Egypt's Information Minister Saif Al Shari.

Minutes of the agreement and implementation will be discussed thoroughly in April in another meeting to be held in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

The information agreement followed the approval of another agreement earlier setting up a higher joint committee between Qatar and Egypt that would be responsible for enhancing co-operation between the two Arab states in different spheres.

The Qatari Foreign Minister Abdulla Bin Khalifa Al Attiya described the current visit by Sheikh Khalifa to Egypt as being "very successful" and said it would certainly yield outstanding results that would benefit the peoples of the two countries.

He told reporters after signing the agreement on setting up the joint co-operation commission with his Egyptian counterpart Dr Esmat Abdel Meguid that the bonds between Qatar and Egypt were stronger than any agreements.

He stressed that there was continuous co-operation between the two leaderships over all Arab national issues, especially on the Palestinian cause "for which Egypt was exerting sincere and faithful efforts," he said.

The Amir of Qatar, who started his current four-day state visit to Egypt on Monday, last night attended an artistic show at the opera house and later on took the underground train, accompanied by President Mubarak, from Cairo's central square "Maidan Al Tahrir" to the Qasr Presidential Palace.



The Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad (left) and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak wave to the cheering crowds as they pass through the town of Ismailia. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Envoy farewell

DEPUTY Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday received Charge d'Affaires in Syria's embassy to Kuwait Lutfi Nour Eddin who called to bid him farewell on the expiry of his term of office here.

The Syrian diplomat paid a similar visit to State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohamed Al Ossami.

Sheikh Sabah

DEPUTY Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed received Social Affairs Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohamed Al Ahmed Al Jaber and chairman and members of Al Farwaniya governorate's council.

Sheikh Sabah also received Kuwait's ambassadors to Damascus, Tunisia, Aden, Abdul Aziz Al Jassim, Abdul Mohsen Al Jaiyan and Fawzi Al Jassim respectively as well as the counsellor of Kuwait's embassy to Washington Sheikh Ali Ahdalla Al Ahmed.

Relief call

JEDDAH, Jan 3. (Kuna): Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamed Al Ghabed has called on all countries, Islamic organisations and societies to send urgent relief for Afghan mujahideen.

Ghabed said last night that the Afghan mujahideen are facing a critical situation, especially in the north, where many children died because of a cold wave and hunger.

ACC meeting

CAIRO, Jan 3. (Kuna): Supreme Council of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) will hold a meeting next February, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the four-member council, Radio Cairo said today.

The meeting will group ACC leaders of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Yemen Arab Republic.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Prime Minister Atif Sedki stated that the next ACC ministerial council meeting will be held Jan 16 in Baghdad.

He reiterated that the rapid developments throughout the world make it imperative that we move towards taking appropriate action to be congruent with such developments.

Also commenting on the lecturers' views, Dr Yusuf Al Ibrahim, from the Faculty of Commerce, Economics and Political Science of Kuwait University, expressed several reservations on the statistics as enumerated.

He clarified that the 1990s will not be a transitional period but would be a reflection of the policies adopted during the first and second oil eras. He queried the ability of member states to address the changing economic situation during this decade. He said his unoptimistic view stems from two factors — limitations in national expertise and time frame for achieving results.

Ibrahim called for a major role to be played by the private sector in the development of all spheres of activity in the region and criticised the economic policies of the region and particularly referred to the absence of the tax system which should be based on a flexible vehicle for implementation of some policies.

He upheld the point of view of the lecturer which deemed that the GCC integration could not constitute a viable alternative to the Arab charter. He stressed on the importance of co-ordinating foreign economic policies and organisation of imports to include capital and consumer goods.

He added: "This increase has negatively affected our economies and social aspects as we failed to transfer this boom in our favour by not positively responding to the challenges of the post oil boom in prices."

The Egyptian and Qatari foreign ministers shake hands after signing agreements of co-operation between the two countries yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Future vision for GCC economies

Participants debate basic issues

THE cultural season organised recently by the Gulf and Arab Peninsula Centre on the theme "Gulf Co-operation Council's countries — The Reality and Aspirations" concluded on Monday.

The final seminar was devoted to debating the view of the lecture delivered by Abdul Latif Al Hamad, chairman and director general of the Arab Fund for Economic Development (AFED) on the theme "Future Vision for GCC Economies during 1990s".

In his comments, Dr Adnan Al Sultan of the Economics Department at Kuwait University, said that the GCC oil resources should not be considered as being inexhaustible as this is a finite source of energy and the day will come when these sources of wealth will be exhausted.

Specifically, he said, the lecturer had ignored the support of the government when discussing growth rates and cited the example where the cost of cultivating wheat was higher than imports and furthermore, negatively affected water levels of the member states.

Speaking on the workforce in the GCC countries, he said that it is marginal and does not possess the needed technical know-how. This lack of expertise in the workforce makes these workers unproductive and consequently causes a burden on the state's finances.

He added that we have to select industries that are complementary with our economics and recommended that the financial

sector be given a major role in contributing to the development process. "The financial sector will constitute the future substitute when resources of the oil sector diminish," Sultan said.

Ahmed Al Nihari, the Kuwaiti economist, lauded the statistics provided by the lecturer and commented that these could constitute a basis of reference for researchers. He called for the industrial sector to be provided with added incentives to develop and recommended that oil derivative industries should be excluded as a means of diversifying the economy.

Nihari described the problem of unemployment among Kuwaiti graduates as critical and attributed it to the educational policy. He confirmed the importance of linking the development process with that of the educational policy and the ability to upgrade and make optimum use of available human resources.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Al Khadi, another Kuwaiti economist, said that the high-level increase in the Gross National Product (GNP) which amounted to 40 per cent is basically due to the increases in oil prices and does not reflect the contributions of other sectors.

He added: "This increase has negatively affected our economies and social aspects as we failed to transfer this boom in our favour by not positively responding to the challenges of the post oil boom in prices."

A specialised scheme includes a training course for management cadre where heads of divisions will be involved in gaining expertise on top-level management procedures.

Dhahi said that the ministry intends to organise a programme of field visits to several departments and schools to obtain first-hand opinion on the quality of these training courses. Training courses will cover several curriculums, including Islamic education.

Education Ministry's diversified training course

Arabic, English and French languages, in addition to upgrading of vocational capabilities and mathematics. The ministry will also organise several training courses related to artistic education, library services, social services, domestic sciences, secretarial and 13 training courses specially tailored to computers.

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Speaking of the supervisory training

course, the official said that there are 239 trainees, including 51 principals, 51 assistant principals, 66 headmistresses and 71 assistant headmistresses.

Meanwhile, the daily interviewed a number of trainees at this course.

Yusuf Al Hussain, assistant principal at Al Rumaihiya Secondary School, described the training course as beneficial and good as it provided the trainees with valuable information related to the latest developments in the field of education.

Safya Al Ali, assistant headmistress, said the course is useful in itself for headmistresses and their assistants and helps to keep them abreast of administrative developments which the ministry is striving to achieve. She said that trainees had benefited and called for concentrating on such workshops.

2 sentenced in absentia

THE Criminal Court sentenced two men in absentia to five years each in jail with hard labour to be followed by deportation.

The court was told that one of the accused had relations with a girl and wanted to marry her. However, the mother refused.

In revenge, he stole the key to the flat from the daughter's purse on one of their outings and with the connivance of the other accused burgled the flat in the absence of the occupants and stole KD30,000 worth of jewellery.

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Khalaf Video Center
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(80-89 songs)
JUBILEE HITS VOL-2
Mera Jahan Tere Liye
Shirwan, Lamha 2
(Gangotri, 1984)

TAUFIQUE VIDEO
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Ministry of Awkaf official resigns

THE undersecretary of the Awkaf Ministry Mohammad Naser Al Hamdan has reportedly tendered his resignation effective June 20, 1990.

Hamdan started his career in 1953 at the Ministry of Public Health and occupied different other government positions including the position of lawyer at the department of Legal Advice and legislation.

He holds degree in law from Alexandria University, Egypt and took up the position of assistant under-secretary at the Ministry of Awkaf Dec 22, 1973. In June 21, 1975 as Amiri degree appointed him undersecretary of the ministry.

He has contributed greatly to the compilation and publication of the Kuwait Encyclopedia of Islamic Jurisprudence which is considered a masterpiece in this field, and also played active part in projects at the Arab and Islamic level.

Awadi meetings

PLANNING Minister and Acting Public Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahim Al Awadi received the Iranian and the Sri Lankan ambassadors to Kuwait, Hussein Sadeki and Latif Sharif Deen respectively.

During the meeting, Awadi discussed with the two ambassadors' bilateral relations between Kuwait and the two countries particularly in the fields of planning and development and ways of boosting them, in addition to exchanging expertise among Kuwait, Iran and Sri Lanka.

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సింగార్లు కు చూచుటకు
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Mera Jahan Tere Liye
Shirwan, Lamha 2
(Gangotri, 1984)

TAUFIQUE VIDEO
SHARQ - 2468717

MURQAB - 2461210

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WE always have time enough, if we will but use it right
— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German poet (1749-1832).

OPINION

Reactivate the economy

KUWAIT'S economy encompasses funds available with people, the state and available resources.

The economy can be developed by increasing the value of these.

Increase in value can be achieved through: real estate, stock exchange market and industries.

The second is undoubtedly the most important artery for Kuwait's economy as it holds the savings of the citizens during the past 40 years and is the real reserve of the public.

Through resolving its difficulties, many major problems, including the huge bad debts can be resolved. These debts are due to banks and are guaranteed by the state.

It will make no difference if the state pays these debts directly to the banks, or better still, through increasing the values of the traded assets in the stock market. Raising of assets' values will rescue dealers and ultimately rescue banks.

However, the Stock Exchange Market is still facing obstacles — perhaps as a result of misbanding by officials in charge and the neglect of the government. Value of its assets are still retreating, although we reiterate that it is the most important economic sector in the country.

Concerning the real estate market, the government has spent or committed to spend over KD 1 billion — soon after the Manakh crash. This commitment has certainly strengthened the real estate market and assets.

Some of these real estates are mortgaged to local banks and any slump in value will affect local banks. As the government has guaranteed mortgaged real estates, it will mean that the government would have to make good. Though it is a continuous chain, the government is the guarantor and should pay in case of any retreat in real estate assets.

On these guarantees, real estate investors improved their situations and paid all or some of their financial commitments and returned to the market actively.

The third aspect of our economy is industries, which we have regrettably "killed" by neglecting its requirements. Kuwait could have been a very important centre for some industries had we not missed the opportunity — like we have missed many others. The recent government-sponsored economic report comes as an attempt to redress the issue of lost opportunities of industries.

Thus, before it is too late, we must concentrate on these three fields: By inducing life into them, we can reactivate our ports, tourism, contracting and other commercial and economic activities which have been damaged through misadministration and lack of flexibility.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Cypriots seek an end to divisions

NICOSIA, Cyprus, (AP): For the first time since Turkey invaded in 1974, openings are appearing in the line that divides Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Some see it as the first sign of breakthrough toward reunification.

With little fanfare, ordinary Greek and Turkish Cypriots have been in touch with each other to seek an end to 15 years of political and religious division on this east Mediterranean island.

"Contact between the two communities has been increasing," noted columnist Petros Andreou in the Cyprus Mail, an English-language newspaper published in the Greek Cypriot sector.

"At least, the two sides are beginning to understand each other's position."

Events in Eastern Europe may have inspired the grassroots trend. Since the Berlin Wall began to crumble in November several groups from the rival communities have come together for the first time in nearly 16 years.

In 1974, the Turkish Army seized the northern third of the island in the wake of a short-lived coup by those seeking union with Greece. The Muslim Turkish Cypriot minority declared the Turkish-occupied north a republic in 1983, but it is recognized only by Turkey.

Cyprus still has a long way to go before the barriers come down as they have in Europe. But columnist Andreou said the 570,000-member Christian Greek Cypriot community's growing awareness of social and economic problems is finally taking the edge off their obsession with the island's divisions.

"People are beginning to realize that there's more to life than the national question," Andreou wrote.

"Perhaps the same realization is crystallizing in the north. If it is, then it's quite probable that people will eventually begin to shed all their nationalistic fixations and instead start to deal with what is really important — how they can live in peace on this island."

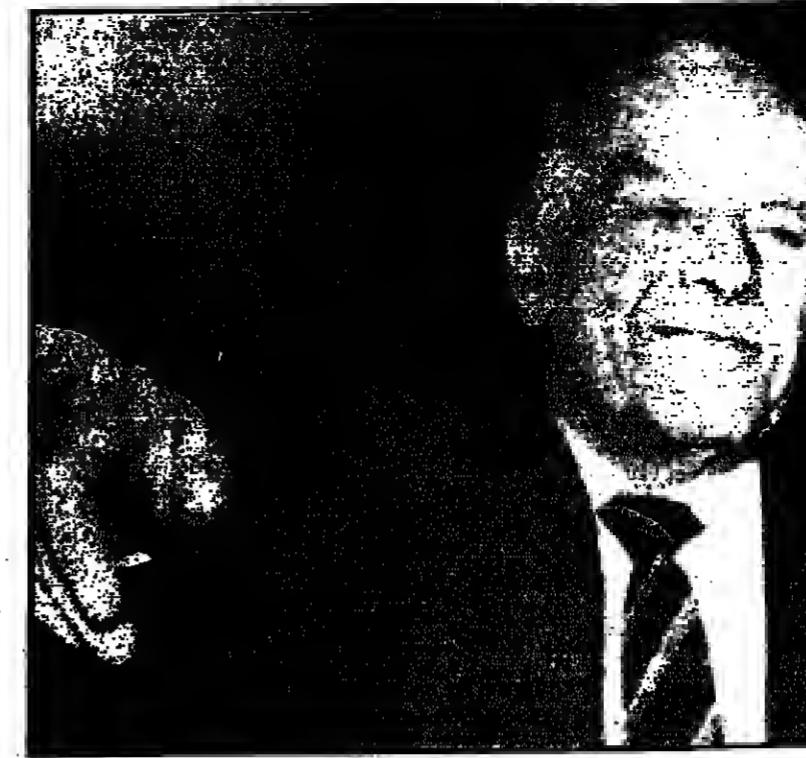
Since the invasion, Rauf Denktash, president of the northern statelet, has banned Turkish Cypriots from visiting the Greek sector and refused to allow Greek Cypriots to visit the north. The Greek Cypriots have imposed no travel restrictions.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1762 — Britain declares war against Spain and Naples.
- 1797 — Napoleon Bonaparte defeats Austrians at Revoli, Italy.
- 1825 — Ferdinand I of Naples dies, is succeeded by Francis I.
- 1908 — Muhammed Hafiz is proclaimed Sultan of Morocco at Fez.
- 1919 — Russian Bolsheviks capture Riga, Latvia.
- 1932 — Japanese forces reach Shantung on Great Wall of China. Indian government introduces emergency powers as Indian National Congress is declared illegal and Mahatma Gandhi is arrested.
- 1938 — British postpone plan for partition of Palestine.
- 1944 — Allied forces launch attack east of Cassino, Italy, in world War II.
- 1948 — Union of Burma becomes independent republic.
- 1951 — North Korean and communist Chinese forces take Seoul, Korea.
- 1959 — Disturbances break out at Leopoldville, Belgian Congo.
- 1972 — Pakistan seeks talks with India after war that resulted in East Pakistan becoming independent state of Bangladesh.
- 1973 — Montreal museum of fine arts robbed of \$2 million worth of art, including a Rembrandt valued at \$1 million.
- 1988 — Palestinians clash with Israeli soldiers in flurry of protests in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- 1989 — U.S. Navy planes, reportedly threatened, shoot down two Libyan jet fighter planes over Mediterranean Sea.



Yasser Arafat



Yitzhak Shamir

Israel says no to talks with PLO

Behind-the-scene contacts common

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (AP): Israel's latest political crisis over cabinet minister Ezer Weizman's alleged contacts with Yasser Arafat posed the question of whether Israel was ready to talk peace with the PLO.

The answer was no, even though behind-the-scenes Israeli-PLO contacts have become almost commonplace.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud Bloc shocked the nation Sunday by announcing he was firing Weizman, the science minister and a member of the centre-left Labour Party.

Shamir accused the former defence minister of going behind his back to meet with "Israel's most dangerous enemies." Worse, he said, Weizman gave Arafat advice on how to block Israel's attempts to keep the PLO out of proposed peace negotiations.

Weizman said his contacts with Palestinians helped advance the peace process and said the Shin Bet security service, which reports to Shamir, was aware of his contacts.

Vice Premier Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, threatened to leave the coalition and bring down the

year-old government. But in the end his party shied away from forcing elections on the issue of talking to the PLO.

The two sides compromised: Weizman would quit the decision-making inner cabinet for at least 18 months but would keep his overall cabinet post as science and development minister.

Even though he did not carry through with the threat to fire Weizman, Shamir appeared to have strengthened his position by demonstrating that he had strong backing, even in Labour, for continuing his policy of not talking to the PLO.

Labour's failure to take up Shamir's challenge disappointed Israeli doves and leading Palestinians who have been involved in efforts to arrange Palestinian-Israeli talks and election in the occupied territories.

"This government is unable to take decisive steps for peace," said Faisal Husseini, a pro-PLO activist.

"Israel needs elections more than the Palestinians."

Amnon Rubinstein, a liberal parliament member and head of the Shinui (Chinese) Party, said the government should "come out and tell the truth that there is no chance for peace without talking to the

PLO."

But the Weizman affair pointed up the increasing difficulty the government is having in maintaining the credibility of its publicly declared policy of refusing all dealings with the PLO, which it views as a terrorist organization bent on Israel's destruction.

Weizman, 63, a longtime advocate of direct talks with the PLO, accused Shamir and even his party leaders of hypocrisy.

He said Shamir and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin had sounded out peace proposals with Palestinians from the occupied territories who acted as direct conduits to the PLO. Weizman also said the Shin Bet secret service, which reports to Shamir, was fully informed about his PLO contacts and even his party leaders of hypocrisy.

Peres, he disclosed, listed in one of Weizman's telephone calls to an Arab contact in Tunis, where the PLO is headquartered, and passed on a message urging PLO acceptance of US plans for holding Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Furthermore, he argued, the government was indirectly negotiating with the PLO via the United States and Egypt.

Armenian bill haunts US-Turkey ties

ANKARA, (Reuter): Disputed claims that Armenians were victims of genocide in Ottoman Turkey have cast a long shadow over Turkey's ties with the United States, its major NATO ally.

Turkey has sent a message through the US Congress of a proposed bill designating next April 24 as "a national day of remembrance of the 75th anniversary of the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923" would sour relations.

The Armenian issue is one of the most sensitive in Turkey, a proud mainly Muslim but secular nation forged in 1923 from the ashes of Ottoman rule. It has repeatedly denied genocide claims.

Western diplomats do not doubt Ankara's resolve to retaliate against Washington with measures that could depress relations to their lowest level in three decades if the resolution is passed.

"Genocide or any other such claims cannot be accepted. It is a misinterpretation of the incident," a Turkish Foreign Ministry official said.

"No Turkish government could ignore the public opinion outcry if such a resolution passed," he added.

Turkey last year opened Ottoman archives to public scrutiny in the hope of refuting charges that have bedeviled Ankara's image and relations with the West for decades.

The European church and European Christian culture have used the Armenians as a tool because they have always had the image of the "ugly Turk," Yuluk Tekin Kurat, history professor at Ankara's Middle East Technical University, told a seminar.

Accounts based in part on contemporary reports by Europeans and Americans in eastern Turkey say up to 1.5 million Armenians were massacred after

Ottoman rulers decided in 1915 to deport them from the region.

Official Turkish history says Ottoman rulers, who sided with Germany in World War One, ordered the deportation of Armenians for alleged collaboration with invading Tsarist Russian forces.

Turkey, which officially puts the number of Armenians in the area at the time at some 1.2 million, has said that possibly 300,000 died as a result of war conditions and during the deportations. It says proportionately as many Turks died in the same period.

Some 50,000 Armenians, with 33 active churches of their own, now live in Turkey, mainly in the commercial centre of Istanbul.

Turkey, which relies heavily on US aid to modernize its armed forces on Nato's southeastern flank, says the passage of the proposed bill could revive Armenian guerrilla attacks, lead to demands for reparations and calls for an Armenian homeland.

Forty-one Turks, many of them diplomats and their relatives, were killed between 1973 and 1983 in attacks claimed by Armenian guerrilla groups.

Turkish sensitivity over the US resolution, proposed by Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, has been heightened by autonomy calls and unrest in Soviet Armenia, facing Turkey.

On the Turkish side lie the ruins of Ani, 1,000-year-old former capital of an Armenian kingdom that covered hundreds of square miles, before its power waned in the Middle Ages.

Western diplomats say the Dole resolution is likely to go before Congress next month but its outcome is uncertain.

US diplomats in Ankara said they saw almost no chance of the resolution being put to one side, given the political power of its author, a one-time presidential aspirant.

"Passage of the bill will be a great blow here," a senior Ankara-based Western diplomat said.

"The Turks have taken a political position in which it will be very difficult for them not to do something if it passes. The effects are likely to be long-lasting."

"I think Turkey and the US could be entering a phase even worse than after the Johnson letter or the US arms embargo," he added.

Relations between Turkey and the United States plunged in 1966 after the then US president Lyndon Johnson warned Ankara in a letter, after fighting between Turkish and Greek Cypriots, against any armed intervention in Cyprus.

Washington imposed an arms embargo on Turkey after Turkish troops invaded Cyprus in 1974 following a short-lived coup in Nicosia inspired by the military junta then ruling Greece.

"The Johnson letter had deep-rooted effects in Turkey and caused a crisis of confidence. The embargo, which ended in 1978, also left its mark," a Turkish official said.

Turkey has urged US President George Bush to stop the bill and says it will not accept any watering down of the draft.

"It is out of the question for us to accept any concession on this issue," Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said last month.

Turkey has already imposed token restrictions, including stopping some flying training and warship visits, on US military activities in Turkey.

Twenty years after Biafran war

Nigeria reconciled

UMUAHIA, Nigeria, (Reuter): Twenty years ago the world was shocked by images of starving children in Biafra, a breakaway enclave in eastern Nigeria where the Ibo people waged a doomed battle for independence from 1967 to January, 1970.

Hundreds of thousands of people died — some estimates say more than a million — in a conflict the international Red Cross at the time called the biggest emergency since World War Two.

The wounds have largely healed, but some Nigerians say black Africa's most populous country is still in search of a sense of nationhood.

"Nigeria remains in essence an amorphous mass of individuals busy pretending to be a people," former rebel leader Emeka Ojukwu wrote in a book published last July.

There has been a remarkable reconciliation since the war, symbolised by Ojukwu's return from 13 years of exile in 1982. He now lives in a fine house in the best part of Lagos.

But for much of the war, Voice of Biafra Radio broadcast Ojukwu's defiant secessionist message from an underground bunker in Umuahia, a small town in modern Imo state which was the rebel base until they were bombed out in April 1969.

Renovated and bousing mementoes of the conflict, the bunker now forms part of a new war museum dedicated to national unity.

The leading protagonists, neatly framed in black and white, stare at each other across a concrete stairway leading down into it.

Inside hang harrowing images of starving, skeletal babies in besieged Biafra — images which wrung hearts across the globe as the war dragged on.

"We believed we had no alternative. It was die fighting or give up and be massacred," Ogonnaya Ojukwu, a member of Ojukwu's wartime inner cabinet, told Reuters.

The supreme commander of the armed forces Major-General John Aguiyi-Ironsi, by coincidence an Ibo, tried to restore order, but retaliation by

northern-dominated government, wiping out the cream of its civilian and military leadership.

Ironsi decreed a unification. The north revolted and seized the central government. In the east, I resisted," Ojukwu said in his recent book.

Resistance, for 9-10 million Ibos including refugees from all over Nigeria, meant an increasingly desperate battle against superior federal firepower and looming starvation.

Support for Ojukwu from strange bedfellows Britain and the Soviet Union outweighed the mainly moral backing Biafra received from France, China and four African countries.

Ever resourceful, the Ibos manufactured miniature oil refineries to turn local crude oil into fuel.

They cannibalised trains and scrap vehicles to make armoured cars, and created a series of deadly weapons including mines and flying bombs.

But they were heavily outgunned and undermined by hostility from minority tribes in the east. International peace conferences failed to end the war but 32 months of resistance took its toll and on January 12, 1970, they sued for peace. The formal surrender took place on January 15.

Ibos and non-Ibos alike share the sentiments expressed by Ismaila Isa, managing director of the Democrat newspaper based in the northern city of Kaduna.

"We've seen where civil war leads, and we never want to see it again," he said.

chickens," said Oliver Nwaike, an Ibo domestic servant in Lagos at the time.

Before he could join the exodus of terrified Ibos trekking home, he hid in the attic of his European employer's home, not daring to tune to Eastern Region Radio.

Ironsi was killed in a second coup in July 1966, and a few months later young Ibo like Nwaike, answering a call from the charismatic and uncompromising eastern region military governor Ojukwu, were wearing Biafra's rising sun symbol on their arms and fighting for independence.

Awareness of ethnic group, state of origin, and above all religion, inflames conflicts over access to education and employment, and looms over the present military government's programme for a return to democracy by 1992.

"Nigeria is still basically a geographical expression, not a cohesive unit," said Ekpo, echoing a comment by a leading Nigerian nationalist before independence.

The country, plagued by a battle for power at the centre between three ethnically and religiously diverse regions, seemed destined to fall apart at the seams barely six years after independence from Britain in 1960.

Northern Muslims clung to political power at the expense of Western-educated southern Christians whose

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Officials to discuss oil market

NICOSIA, Jan 3. (Reuter): Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) officials will meet in Saudi Arabia on January 8 to discuss oil price forecasts and the impact of political changes on the oil market, the Oman News Agency said today.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said marketing managers at the national oil companies of the six GCC states would discuss short term price forecasts.

It quoted Rashid Bin Khaled Al Barwani, oil and gas marketing director at Oman's Oil Ministry, as saying they would also discuss "development in the oil market in recent months and the impact of current political developments and the environment on the market."

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain advocate stable oil prices at around \$18 a barrel to maintain rising world demand for their oil which accounts for over 40 per cent of the world's total.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, said on Sunday GCC states should work to increase their share of the market in consultations with other Opec members.

Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa said today Opec might decide to pump more oil when it meets in Vienna next March.

Except for Oman and Bahrain, GCC states are members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Al Barwani said, "The GCC officials would discuss a report by Kuwait's Petroleum Corp. (KPC), including 'an evaluation of crude oil prices and a comparison between crudes in the Gulf and those in Europe, the United States and East Asia."

BA to stop flights to Amman

AMMAN, Jan 3. (Reuter): British Airways (BA) is to end flights to Jordan after several decades and run a joint service with Royal Jordanian (RJ) using RJ aircraft from April 1.

BA currently operates three flights a week between London Gatwick and Amman via Cairo. BA aircraft must fly south from Amman because they cannot use Israeli or Syrian airspace.

Geoff Rhodes, BA's manager in Jordan, said an average of only 20 to 25 passengers were using the Amman leg and loads were declining.

There is very little tourism from Jordan now and even the business market is shrinking," he told Reuters.

Local foreign currency restrictions and the weakness of the dinar, which has lost 40 per cent of its dollar value since October 1988, have made it harder for Jordanians to travel.

From April 1 the joint BA-RJ service will run five non-stop flights a week between London Heathrow and Amman, increasing to six from June 1, using RJ Airbus A310-300 aircraft.

Industrial investment

SANAA, Jan 3. (Reuter): Italy will study setting up industrial projects in North Yemen following a visit by Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, the official news agency Sabi said.

It said Andreotti left for South Yemen on Friday after a two-day visit aimed at increasing Italy's oil imports from North Yemen and expanding other economic co-operation.

Assets selling report denied

Public auctions to stay

KUWAIT, Jan 3 (Kuna): Governor of the Central Bank Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah today denied a press report alleging that local banks have begun selling assets of indebted persons listed with the government Settlement Programme.

In a statement to Kuna, Sheikh Salem said measures to settle accounts of indebted persons whose debts are below KD250,000 or over do not include selling their assets in public auctions.

He also denied that the recommendations approved by the Council of Ministers to restructure the economy included a proposal on selling assets of the indebted persons by one way or another.

The report was correct about the existence of public auctions, he said, but those auctions have been set by banks who took legal actions against uncooperative customers who are not listed in the Settlement Programme.

The Settlement Programme has been established following the 1981 stock market crash. It was designed to solve the complicated problem of unregulated checks which were very common at the time and lead to an economic disaster in the country and abroad.

Turkish share prices soar

STANBUL, Jan 3. (Reuter): Share prices at Istanbul's Stock Exchange rose to their seventh consecutive high today with the market index, based on 100 in January 1986, hitting 2,425.00, 4.9 per cent over Tuesday's close and up 9.3 per cent from Friday.

"Prices went up more than six-fold on the emerging market in 1989.

"These are very active days we are living through," said Vural Akcik, general manager of Turk Merchant Bank AS.

Tanker on high seas

3 sister ships to Iranian tanker seized

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, Jan 3. (Agencies): Three sister ships to the Iranian supertanker that spewed a vast oil slick off Morocco have recently been seized in the Netherlands because of maintenance defects, Dutch television reported today.

A total of five Iranian-owned supertankers were seized by authorities over the past 14 months and prevented from leaving Rotterdam until they had undergone repairs, according to the television report.

Among them were three sister ships to the Khark 5, which has spilled an estimated 19 million gallons (72 million litres) of crude into the Atlantic Ocean after an explosion tore through its hull

on Dec 19, television said.

Earlier today, hundreds of clean-up workers on ships and aircraft were struggling to break up a 260-square-kilometre (100-square-mile) oil slick from the Khark 5 which is menacing the Moroccan coast.

The Dutch salvage company Smit Tak is towing the Khark 5 to Cape Verde, where it hopes to transfer its remaining cargo of up to 210,000 tons of crude to another Iranian tanker.

None of the seized ships were identified in the television report, which gave no specifics on the nature of their defects, other than to say the vessels failed to meet international safety and environmental standards.

Rotterdam's Shipping Inspection Office, responsible for the seizures in the world's largest port, was closed and could not be reached for comment.

The Khark 5, built in 1975 and acquired by the National Iranian Tanker Co. in 1986, was damaged in at least three attacks by Iraqi fighter jets during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, shipping industry expert Richard Golob said yesterday.

The normal lifespan for a supertanker is 15-20 years, after which it needs extensive renovation, according to the London newspaper Lloyd's List.

Meanwhile, hundreds of clean-up workers on ships and aircraft struggled

today to break up a 260-square-kilometre (100-square-mile) oil slick menacing the Moroccan coast.

In Paris, French Environment Minister Brice Lalonde said the crippled Iranian supertanker that unleashed the spill continues to pose a serious threat to marine life.

The Moroccan Navy mobilised a frigate and seven patrol boats to keep an eye on the spill and lay floating barriers to keep the slick at bay along a 350 km (220-mile) front from the rich fishing grounds of Safi north of Casablanca, the official news agency said.

The Maghreb Arabe Presse Agency reported that helicopters of the Royal Moroccan gendarmerie continued to

spray thousands of gallons of dispersal agents on the oil to break up the slick.

Three C-130 Hercules aircraft of the Moroccan Air Force flew surveillance along the coastline to ensure that none of the oil had washed ashore, MAP said.

The 19-million-gallon (70,000-ton) spill from the Iranian tanker Khark 5 threatens fisheries, oyster farms, a pink flamingo breeding ground and popular tourist beaches, MAP said, with 100,000 jobs hanging in the balance.

Lalonde, returning to Paris after two days in Morocco to assess the North African country's needs in battling the slick, said danger from the spill and the Khark 5 haven't yet passed.

Three seagoing tugs under command of the Dutch salvage firm Smit Tak are towing the half-sunken tanker away from Morocco toward more sheltered waters off the Cape Verde islands.

"I'm concerned not only with what's going to happen to the Moroccan coast — we'll know more this evening — but with what's going to happen to the tanker now that it's on the open seas," Lalonde said.

"The first reaction of other governments is we don't want that thing around us; take the danger far away," Lalonde said. "Secondly, because the sea doesn't belong to anyone, the international community is completely unprepared to deal with it."

Sheikh Ali tells Opec to consider quota rise

Suharto warns Opec against trap of high prices

JAKARTA, Jan 3. (Reuter): The current high prices for oil mean Opec should look at the possibility of increasing quotas when ministers next meet in March, visiting Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa said.

"I think this is an indication for us that perhaps when we meet in March we should look at the situation. If the market can accommodate more oil then we should be more than happy to increase the quota again," Sheikh Ali said.

He was answering reporters questions about the rise in prices above the group's \$18 a barrel reference price. "But we have to wait until the March meeting to see the situation."

Opec set a production ceiling at 22 million barrels per day for the first half of 1990 but Al earlier said actual output could be as high as 23 million.

His Indonesian counterpart, Gintan Kartasasmita, said Opec's monitoring committee would meet in Vienna in March to discuss oil quotas and prices and all Opec ministers will

be invited.

"The Opec monitoring committee meeting scheduled in March is very important. There will be much at stake there," Gintan said.

Gintan said Indonesia and Kuwait both agreed to defend Opec's \$18 reference price.

North Sea Brent was quoted in Singapore at more than \$20.

"The (Kuwaiti) minister thinks the (\$18) oil price should be defended for three to four years, until Opec could reach production capacity, and then prices will gradually increase," Gintan said adding he hoped the time frame would be shorter.

"It depends on what we perceive as Opec's production capacity, whether it's 25, 26, 28 million or 28 million," Gintan said.

Sheikh Ali said Kuwait's policy was the same as Indonesia's — to maintain stable prices at reasonable levels for long period to benefit both producers and consumers.

On Sunday, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd backed calls by Gulf states for a

larger share of Opec oil output. He said his country would consult with other Opec members over raising its share of Opec production when the market warrants.

Indonesia's President Suharto warned Opec against being trapped by high prices which could in fact be a strategy by consumer countries to push up production and then force prices down.

"President Suharto told Sheikh Ali that we should not be trapped by the temptation of higher oil prices," Indonesian Energy Minister Gintan Kartasasmita told reporters.

Suharto told the Kuwaiti minister on the final day of his four-day visit here that Indonesia had had bad experiences with other commodities of which it was encouraged to increase production only to see prices fall sharply.

Suharto said such experiences were likely to have been part of a strategy by consumer countries.

"Opec must be very careful about this kind of thing, therefore it is very

important for Opec to maintain reasonable prices both for oil consumers and producers," Suharto said.

Prices are currently being quoted at least \$2 above the Opec reference price of \$18.

"We don't want prices to increase too fast. We don't want to increase prices as long as some Opec members' output capacity has not been fulfilled, because if not, there could be cheating," Gintan said.

Meanwhile, Oman said today its total revenues rose by 12.7 per cent in the first nine months of 1989.

Official figures issued by the Omani News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the revenues, 85 per cent from oil and gas, went up 1.1 billion rials (\$2.86 billion) from January to September in 1989 compared to the same period in 1988.

It said oil revenues jumped 13 per cent to 902 million rials (\$2.24 billion) compared with 797.8 million rials (\$2.07 billion).

Higher taxes rejected

ALGIERS, Jan 3. (Reuter): Algeria's parliament has rejected a government request for tax increases on some goods, including fuel and approved a budget with a 3.5 billion dinar (\$424 million) deficit. Economy Minister Ghazi Hidouci said.

The official Algerian News Agency APS quoted Hidouci as telling a news conference last night the amendments imposed by parliament during a one-week budget debate will cause the government financial problems.

"But it (the government) reserves the right to go back to parliament later with a supplementary finance bill," he said.

The new budget deficit figure was 500 million dinars (\$60 million) higher than the one reported by APS at the start of the debate, but the agency did not specify whether the parliament had increased provisions.

It compares with a 5.1 billion dinars (\$635 million) deficit budgeted for 1989.

Hidouci said the proposed new taxes building materials, paint, wood, iron and some imports among others were directed more at the rich than the poor.

Stronger dollar knocks gold down

Shares soar to record highs

LONDON, Jan 3, (Reuter): Shares soared to all-time closing highs in London and Frankfurt today on a wave of optimism spurred by an earlier record-breaking session on Wall Street.

London, the world's third biggest stock market after Tokyo and New York, smashed the record set 2-1/2 years ago before the Black Monday world stock market crash in October 1987.

"We could be heading for a bit of a consolidation but it does look very healthy at the moment," said one dealer.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares closed 29.6 points higher at 2,463.7, well above the previous record close of 2,443.3 set on July 16, 1987.

"I see the top side of the trading range on the FTSE index at 2,500 in the first quarter this year," said Randal Goldsmith, equity strategist at brokers James C. Capel.

Dealers said the rise had been helped by a 5.95-point jump on Wall Street's Dow Jones Industrial Average last night to 2,810.15, the first time it has finished above 2,800.

The previous Dow record close of 2,791.41 was set on Oct 9 last year.

New York traders said the Dow's rise was due to enthusiastic start-of-the-year buying and a stronger US dollar.

Wall Street continued to move higher today and stood 5.34 points up at 2,185.49 by midday in New York.

Dealers said the London market had also drawn encouragement from a sharp rise in Frankfurt.

West German shares have climbed steadily since East German borders were opened on Nov 9, which economists said would further strengthen Europe's biggest economy.

Strong foreign demand for West German stocks boosted Frankfurt's Dax Index of 30 blue chips up 55.28 points, one of its largest single-day gains, to end three per cent higher at 1,869.66, continuing a run of record closes.

The stronger dollar knocked gold down to \$395.50 an ounce at the close in London, the first time it has ended below \$400 for more than six weeks.

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Businesses object to new taxes

LONDON, Jan 3, (AP): New provisional commercial tax bills received by businesses today prompted a storm of protest, with Harrods calling its *ghost-tax* increase over the next five "monstrous."

The government is revising commercial tax rates for all businesses in England and Wales for the first time in 17 years.

The new commercial taxes will be phased in over five years and companies will face an increase of 20 per cent this year.

The revision comes as the government introduces a new system of taxing households based on the number of individuals living in each one rather than on the value of the property.

Every business, from the corner shops to the industrial giants, was given a new "rating valuation" in preparation for the introduction of the uniform business rate of 34.8 per cent in April.

John Banham, director general of the business group the Confederation of British Industry, said the increased burden could push up inflation just as the government is trying to fight resurgent inflation with high interest rates.

Banham predicted a "hurricane" of protests from the business community.

Of the 1.6 million commercial properties revalued for the first time since 1973, nearly one million face higher bills.

The biggest rises will come in London and the southeast of England, with major stores being hardest hit.

Harrods' annual tax will increase from £1 million (£1.6 million) to £4.4 million (£3.3 million) in five years.

David Simons, finance director of the store's owner, House of Fraser Plc, said it would appeal against the "monstrous" increase.

He added: "To retailers, increases of this magnitude are insupportable. We are confident that sense will prevail, or there will be a lot of empty shops in every high street in Britain."

A high street is a main shopping street.

Commercial ratepayers have six months from the introduction of the new system to lodge an appeal against their assessment.

Bombay shares

Business group backs delay on clean air bill

WASHINGTON, Jan 3, (AP): A business coalition including major oil, gas, auto and chemical companies favours "stalling early action" on a senate clean air bill, according to a memorandum that describes a private strategy session.

The memo urges industry representatives to contact senators and tell them "senators are upset at (Democratic leader George) Mitchell for speed of action ... and not deliberating on the issues."

Mitchell and Democratic Sen. Max Baucus are the key strategists on the hill, which has generally won environmentalists' support for its language to clean the skies of acid rain, toxic chemicals and urban smog. However, industry views the measure as too costly.

and not feasible. The unsigned memo said dozens of senators were asking congressional research agencies for an "economic impact analysis" of the legislation and added, "this is a key part of stalling early action" on the bill.

New clean air legislation is the top environmental goal in this Congress for Mitchell, House leaders and President George Bush. Mitchell has scheduled the Senate clean air measure as the first bill to be considered when senators return from recess Jan. 23, although a long debate is expected.

The House version, which is closer to Bush's proposal than the Senate plan, still must pass through the energy and commerce committee before reaching the floor.

The industry memo, obtained by the Associated Press, provides a detailed account of a Dec. 4 meeting attended by more than 100 members of the clean air working group — a coalition including 1,950 companies and trade associations interested in clean air legislation.

It urged members of the industry group "to contact Senate offices over the next several weeks many times."

William Fay, administrator of the clean air working group, said in an interview, "except for the word 'stall,' it's probably fairly accurate notes. I want a clean air bill this year. If it gets done this year what's the purpose of a stall?"

"I didn't use that language," Fay said, but he couldn't recall whether another participant did so.

Fay denied that the participants were told to attack Mitchell. But he acknowledged they were asked to make the point that "this is basically a railroaded bill," because it was rushed through the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee with little debate in November.

A Mitchell aide would not comment on the specifics of the memo. The aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Maine Democrat has "made it known for months it will be the first item of business. There will be significant debate and there should be significant debate. Senator Mitchell welcomes that debate."

Casey Scott Padgett, legislative counsel to an environmental group called environmental action, said, "after blocking improvements to the clean air act for the past decade, it's no surprise polluters have launched a new campaign of delay."

Padgett said the industry group's tactics "will backfire like a polluting, old gas-guzzler."

The memo urged the business representatives to "make reservations now" for their chief operating officers to appear in Washington this month to lobby against the bill.

It said a multimedia advertising campaign was being "designed to hit senators in mid-January" although Fay said no final decision has been made.

Fay said the Senate bill's requirements for reducing smog are "punitive, costly and inflexible." He

contended "a number of industries with revenues exceeding \$100 billion a year may not survive" the standards for reducing health risks from toxic chemical emissions.

He said the requirement to cut acid rain emissions "put an incredible economic burden on the industrial midwest and southeast." Auto exhaust standards "cannot be achieved by any known technology," he said, and predicted that plants making family-sized cars would have to shut down.

Fay said, "I want senators to understand when we leave their office how extreme this bill is." "I were Mitchell and didn't want senators to know what the bill said. I couldn't plan a better strategy."

Oil revenues expected to rise further

Saudis set to enter decade of economic expansion

KUWAIT, Jan 3. (Reuter): Saudi Arabia seems set to enter a decade of steady economic expansion after making painful budget cuts throughout most of the 1980s, bankers and diplomats said today.

Unveiling its 1990 budget, the government on Sunday projected its first spending increase since the oil boom peaked in 1981, with planned expenditures rising by 1.4 per cent in the coming year to 143 billion riyals (\$38.1 billion).

"We think they will begin to climb from here on out. They have turned a corner," said a Western diplomat in Riyadh.

The kingdom, the world's largest oil exporter, saw a dramatic fall in oil revenues from more than \$100 billion in 1981 to a low of \$13.6 billion in 1986, forcing it

to make budget cuts up to 15 per cent a year for most of the decade.

But diplomats said the market for Saudi crude oil picked up substantially in 1989 and looked likely to keep on rising.

Total 1989 revenues rose to around 120 billion to 125 billion riyals (\$32 billion to \$3.3 billion) from the originally projected 116 billion, they said, and this was nearly all due to an increase in oil income.

"Markets were much, much stronger than anyone anticipated a year ago. The budget worked out better than anyone thought," said the diplomat.

Oil revenues were expected to rise still further in 1990 to 86 billion riyals (\$23 billion) from around \$1 billion in 1989.

"They will have to make sharp cuts on the administrative side,

which is hard to do," said a diplomat.

The government said it would make up the difference between revenues and expenditure by continuing its sensitive programme of issuing riyal-denominated bonds in the local market.

But bankers say their appetite for the medium-term instruments has largely been satisfied and many are being taken by government pension funds.

Diplomats estimated that Saudi Arabia was currently drawing four to \$6 billion a year from its foreign reserves.

The reserves are estimated at around \$65 billion, but only 20 billion to 25 billion are liquid, bankers said. If oil revenues were to remain stagnant the reserves could last as little as four years.

GUJARAT-GODREJ Innovative Chemicals Ltd., will shortly enter the capital market with an issue of 21,00,000—12.5 per cent secured redeemable partly convertible debentures of Rs 160 each at par aggregating Rs 31.6 crore and 12,10,000 secured redeemable non-convertible debentures of Rs 100 each for cash at par aggregating Rs 12.10 crore.

Gujarat-Godrej is setting up a Rs 109 crore project to manufacture 35,000 tonnes per annum of Alpha olefin, its precursors and derivatives at a plant in the Bharuch district of Gujarat.

The company has been jointly promoted in the Associate Sector by the Godrej Group and Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation (GIIC).

The Gujarat-Godrej project is the first of its kind in India and will manufacture Alpha olefin by an innovative process using vegetable oils. This process has been developed by Dr BP Godrej and his team at Godrej Soaps Ltd. and patented in many countries of the world.

The company has entered into a technical collaboration with Lurgi, GmbH, West Germany who will provide design, engineering, licence and know-how, personnel delegation and equipment supply, as well as overall performance guarantees.

Lurgi is among the world's largest process engineering companies and has a strong presence in India having been associated with over 75 plants in the country for reputed organisations including the Godrej Group.

Alpha olefin (AO) is a linear organic chemical, which, when sulphonated is used in the soap and detergent industry. Alpha olefin sulphonate is compatible with soap and synergistic with LAB. Unlike LAB it is highly biodegradable. It is highly effective in hard water and has a higher solubility in cold water as compared to soap and LAB, and can be used both for toilet as well as fabric washing. AO-based detergents are also milder on the skin. Currently there is no other manufacturer of Alpha olefin in India and the country's entire demand is met by imports.

Gujarat-Godrej would thus be manufacturing an import substitute, saving the country valuable foreign exchange. The soap and detergent industry which uses Alpha olefin sulphonate is huge. Annual production of detergents is about 1 million tonnes and the growth rate is 20 per cent per annum while that of toilet soaps is 2.50,000 tonnes with a growth rate of about 10 per cent. The annual laundry soap production is 800,000 tonnes.

The experience of the Godrej Group in the field of chemicals will also be extremely beneficial to Gujarat-Godrej.

Godrej Soaps Ltd. (GSL) is the largest manufacturer of premium toilet soaps in India. The company produced India's first soap made from vegetable oils, the first deodorant soap, and the first soap with vegetable oils, the first deodorant soap, and the first soap with Alpha olefin sulphonate. GSL also produces detergent cakes, powders and liquids, all of which contain Alpha olefin sulphonate, as well as toiletries such as talcum powder, shaving cream and hair dye. GSL also sulphonates alpha olefin.

GSL is a pioneer in the manufacture of fatty acids including fractionated fatty acids of high purity, and glycerine. The Animal Feeds Division of GSL is the country's largest marketer of cattle and poultry feed.

Godrej & Boyce is a leading manufacturer of locks, safes, refrigerators, furniture, typewriters, printers, terminals, work stations, forklift trucks, machine tools and chemical equipment.

GIIC is a state level financial institution promoted by the Government of Gujarat and has today emerged as a front runner for the promotion of industrial enterprises in Gujarat.

The first conversion from the issue of partly convertible debentures will also carry 800 benefits. Out of the total issue, 4,00,000—12.5 per cent partly convertible debentures of Rs 150 each have been reserved for preferential allotment to non-resident Indians/persons of Indian origin resident abroad on repatriation basis. The issue opens for NRIs on January 9, 1990 and for the Indian public on January 10, 1990.

Nigeria seeks support for more austerity

LAGOS, Jan 3, (Reuter): Nigeria's military president tried today to drum up popular support for another austerity budget in 1990, saying black Africa's biggest debtor nation would stick to its radical three-year-old economic reform plan.

The government was committed to "economic reconstruction, social justice and self-reliance," General Ibrahim Babangida said in a nation-wide broadcast.

He predicted more intense and complex economic difficulties for Africa and the Third World in the early 1990s, but said the government would do its best to ease the

suffering of the vulnerable among Nigeria's 100 million people.

"Low income groups and the unemployed are going to be confronted with extreme hardships, including hunger, lingering poverty," he said. Medical care and education would be inadequate.

The government, backed by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) which endorse its structural adjustment programme, kept anti-austerity riots last

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Each Convertible Debenture will be issued in 3 parts and converted as follows. Part A of Rs. 50 into 5 shares of Rs. 10 each at par on allotment and Part B of Rs. 50 into 5 shares of Rs. 10 each at par on March 31, 1991. Part C of Rs. 50 will be redeemed in two equal instalments at the expiry of the 8th and 9th year from the date of allotment.

Yes, this is it. Your chance to participate in the success of this potential new venture and in the first public issue from the House of Godrej !

HIGHLIGHTS

- Strong promoters — The Godrej Group and GIC
- Import substitution project to manufacture Alpha olefin
- Tremendous demand for Alpha olefin from the rapidly-growing soap and detergent industry
- Backward integration project for the Godrej Group as GIC's products will enjoy an excellent captive demand
- Technical collaboration with Lurgi GmbH, West Germany, one of the world

Egypt to buy wheat for cash

CAIRO, Jan 3. (Reuters): Egypt has offered to use scarce hard currency to replenish its depleted stocks of wheat after France refused to provide supplies on credit in a dispute over unpaid debts, foreign experts said today.

France, a major supplier, has held up wheat and flour sales because of the debt row, threatening Egypt with a major supply crisis by June this year, the experts say.

To beat off the shortfall, Egypt will tender for 200,000 tonnes on Jan 20, trade sources in Paris said.

Egypt last bought wheat for cash in June with a world tender for 200,000 tonnes, marking the first time it had made a complete cash purchase since the early 1970s.

But foreign experts say the cash offer will still not be enough to prevent stocks falling to dangerously low levels.

Egypt, the world's third largest wheat importer after the Soviet Union and China, imports about seven million tonnes of wheat each year to keep up supplies of subsidised bread.

Despite cash problems, the government cannot risk cutting back wheat imports, fearing rioting by a population already sorely hit by economic depression.

Trade sources estimate that Egypt needs to import about 460,000 tonnes of wheat every month, and 125,000 tonnes of wheat flour. Without French wheat stocks could fall to less than 100,000 tonnes by June.

Wheat flour stocks earlier looked set to run out altogether, although France has since agreed to send 40,000 tonnes of wheat flour in food aid.

Egypt buys about 40 per cent of its wheat from the United States with the rest divided roughly equally between the European Economic Community and Australia. Most is bought on credit.

It has so far agreed to buy 1.5 million tonnes of wheat from Australia — with part of the payment in cash — and has some supplies due in from the United States.

Australia is also supplying 50,000 tonnes of wheat under its food aid programme.

But France, the main EEC supplier, said last month it would not provide export credit guarantees to cover the shipment of 150,000 tonnes of wheat flour because of credit disputes.

Government officials in Paris said today France and Egypt planned to hold talks in Cairo this month to try to resolve the dispute.

Foreign experts said it was unclear which debts were involved but could include arrears on previous wheat sales. It does not include debt which would be subject to rescheduling at any agreement at the Paris Club of creditor nations.

Rolls-Royce's unique role

ROLLS-ROYCE engines capable of powering the new breed of wide-bodied aircraft or multi-role combat aircraft will lead the company's participation at February's Asian Aerospace show in Singapore.

More than 26,000 Rolls-Royce gas turbines are in service around the world, with many of the company's 1,250 customers in the Asia-Pacific region.

Rolls-Royce deputy chairman Sir Ralph Robins said: "The Asia-Pacific region has been very important to us and we plan to continue to play a significant role through our wide range of civil and military engines, and through industrial and technology agreements."

Currency rates

kuwait, Jan 3. (Kuwait): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29273	0.29249
sterling	0.47170	0.47125
DM	0.7025	0.7085
SF	0.18525	0.18590
CF	0.04980	0.05000
lira	0.0002270	0.0002285
yen	0.002005	0.002020
Bahrain	0.77645	0.77870
UAE Dh	0.07965	0.08005
S. riyal	0.07805	0.07830
Q. riyal	0.08035	0.08065
O. riyal	0.76000	0.76340

Interest Rates

kuwait, Jan 3. (Kuwait): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/4	8-1/2
3 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
6 months	8-1/16	8-5/16
1 year	8-1/16	8-5/16

EEC trade proposals fall short of Arab hopes

BAHRAIN, Jan 3. (Reuters): European Economic Community proposals for a free trade pact with Gulf Arab states fall far short of the developing bloc's expectations and will make negotiations long and difficult, regional officials say.

Members of the six-state Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) say they are disappointed with trade proposals approved by the EEC last month because they do not lift painful protective barriers against the group's key industries.

One obstacle to a quick agreement with the EEC is the failure of the Gulf states so far to

agree common tariffs within the region, necessary in any bargaining with the European grouping.

But the bigger problem is what the GCC sees as EEC insistence on blocking its crucial petrochemical and other products.

The proposed draft does not fulfill our desire for a more open market between the two regions," Abdullah Al Quweiz, GCC secretary general for economic affairs, said.

"We are attempting to diversify our economies into new avenues for petrochemicals, aluminium and refined products ... there are measures which will hinder the accessibility of these

to the European market," he told Reuters by telephone from his Riyadh office.

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates form the GCC, an economic and political alliance.

The group has been urging the 12-member EEC, its main trading partner, to lift tariffs on GCC exports to help narrow a trade deficit which reached \$4.4 billion in 1988.

EEC products account for over 40 per cent of the GCC market. Most enter with little or no duty while cheaply-produced Gulf petrochemicals face tariffs

of up to 14 per cent.

EEC Industrial Affairs Commissioner Martin Bangemann visited Saudi Arabia and Bahrain last week in a bid to reassure Gulf officials that the scheduled 1992 breakdown of remaining barriers within the EEC was not meant to keep out their products.

Quweiz described the talks as encouraging but said a period of "long and complicated negotiations" lay ahead.

Under the free trade proposals — which follow a preliminary economic agreement signed in 1988 — GCC states would scrap duties on all European products

over eight years.

In return, the community would immediately eliminate duties on all GCC products except for three lists of "sensitive" items which include most that matter. Tariffs on these would be phased out over eight to 12 years.

The proposals would also allow GCC states to put 20 per cent duties on some products to protect infant industries up to a value of 10 per cent on total trade.

EEC industrialists fear a flood of cut-price imports from the area.

One GCC official said the

proposals were unfair because the lists of sensitive products — which include about 46 types of petrochemicals — were too long.

Another said it would help speed up a trade agreement.

"It's a question of industry," James Kubosch, an aide to Bangemann, said in Bahrain on Monday.

"Everyone is afraid now but they will get to know each other and identify and discuss problem points," he said.

Foreign ministers from the GCC and the EEC would also discuss the issue at a meeting on March 17 in Muscat. Kubosch said.

ween GCC and EEC petrochemical chiefs in Brussels in January and between industrialists from both sides in Spain in February would help speed up a trade agreement.

"It's a question of industry," James Kubosch, an aide to Bangemann, said in Bahrain on Monday.

"Everyone is afraid now but they will get to know each other and identify and discuss problem points," he said.

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Greater private-led growth vital: Oman

Muscat stays cautious on economy

DUBAI, Jan 3. (Reuters): Oman looks set to achieve a real 1990 budget deficit lower than projected but remains cautious due to notoriously volatile oil prices, and hopes to set a firmer basis for greater private-led growth in the future.

This year's budget, announced on Monday, set a 1990 deficit of \$14 million rials (\$315 million) with spending eight per cent higher at 1.75 billion (4.5 billion) and revenue at 1.43 billion (3.7 billion).

The government, repeating its policy of 1989, projected 1990 revenues on 1989 oil prices despite a general belief amongst analysts that world oil prices will be firm this year.

Independent economists believe Oman budgeted 1989 revenues on an oil price of \$12.50 a barrel while the final average was around \$15 to 16 for last year.

Oil revenues account for about 90 per cent of total state income. Oman yesterday raised its monthly December crude price to

\$17.70 per barrel.

Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Bin Abdulmonim Al Ghazali said that for this same reason the real 1989 deficit would come out lower than the projected 407.6 million rials (\$1.1 billion), but did not say by how much.

Omani ministers and officials in a series of reports for the coming year outlined their plans for a gradual reduction in the state's role for greater private-led growth in the future.

The policy is similar to that in other Gulf Arab oil producing countries which have begun to see the dangers of continually leading growth through spending state incomes which rely almost exclusively on moves in world oil prices.

Cutting the state role may not be easy. State spending as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), which is the value of all goods and services produced in the economy, was 53 per cent in 1988 and as high as 67 per cent in 1986, the year of Oman's biggest recorded deficit

following the oil price collapse.

Commerce and Industry Minister Salem Bin Abdullah Al Ghazali said government policy should encourage the private sector to participate more effectively in economic development.

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Mohammed Bin Abdullah Bin Zaher Al Hinai said his sector would try to produce more food to cut down imports, and create jobs.

The sector is only four to five per cent of total gross domestic product but growing quickly.

Senior Central Bank official Mohammed Abdal Aziz Kalmoor said monetary stability remained a cornerstone policy.

Oman's other main concern is holding off imported inflation due to its large imports of consumer and capital items.

"Imported inflation ... is more difficult to contain," said Kalmoor in his report.

Economists say anti-inflationary measures in the European Economic Community, which is

Oman's biggest trade partner, will help contain imported inflation.

But the recent rise in most EEC currencies against the dollar could offset this by raising EEC import prices in Oman, where the rial is effectively linked to the dollar.

Oman officials see import diversification as the answer to this particular dilemma.

Independent economists see a long-term improvement only through a greater private sector role in developing the manufacturing and processing sector to substitute imports.

Oman, however, is confident of a better future for its oil output in the next five years. Oil Minister Said Bin Ahmed Al Shani said Oman could reach 670,000 barrels per day oil output over the next five years from 600,000 now.

Oman's main oil problem is lack of major reserves. Shani said proven reserves now are 4.2 billion barrels and he was optimistic more would be found.

Industrialisation progressing at a rapid pace

Loan conditions soft, says GIB

This is the third part of the article "GCC urged to map industrial strategy." First part appeared on Tuesday, Jan 2.

While their main focus of operations is manufacturing, other priority sectors are included, namely agriculture in the case of the Oman Development Bank (ODB) and services that are associated with industrial sectors. Loan conditions are soft with lending rates well below commercial rates.

Loans extended by Sidif are charged at 2 per cent while IBK charges 5 per cent on new projects and 6.2 per cent on expansion of existing ones. The Oman Development Bank charges 6 per cent if the project is located in the capital area or in Rasayi industrial estate and 4 per cent for those located elsewhere.

Maturity ranges from 5-7 years with a two year grace period (Kuwait), with maturity reaching up to 10 years in Oman and 15 years in Saudi Arabia.

A secondary yet critical role played by development banks is its non-financial support. The identification of development opportunities, translation into viable projects, provision of technical and other support services are as crucial as the actual mobilisation of resources.

Gulf development banks and funds have developed extensive capabilities of appraisal, evaluating feasibility studies

submitted by investors, monitoring projects during implementation and providing supportive financial, managerial, marketing and technical assistance to the projects.

Between 1974 and 1988, the Saudi Industrial Development Fund exceeded more than \$4 billion worth of concessionary loans to a total of 997 projects in the manufacturing sector. The construction material sector accounted for 41 per cent of total loans extended, followed by metal and engineering products (21 per cent), chemical (20 per cent), consumer products (18 per cent) and other manufacturing (1 per cent).

The Industrial Bank of Kuwait extended concessionary loans to the country's manufacturing sector worth over \$1 billion for around 382 projects over the period 1974-1988, while the total loans commitment of Oman Development Bank was \$119 million to 237 projects since its inception in 1979.

Emirates Industrial Bank, a relative newcomer with operations beginning in 1983 had by the end of 1988 allocated \$68.4 million to 72 projects in the industrial sector.

At the regional level, the Gulf Development Corporation (GIC), established in 1984 by the six Gulf states with a capital of \$2.1 billion (\$540 paid up) provides Gulf private investors with a

(Concluded)



Saeed Al Naeqeb of Al Naeqeb and Khattar, receiving the IASA shield of appreciation from the IASA chairman at the official opening of the 37th IASA general assembly meeting recently.

Nazih Khattar reviews IASA operations

IMFA spreads its wings

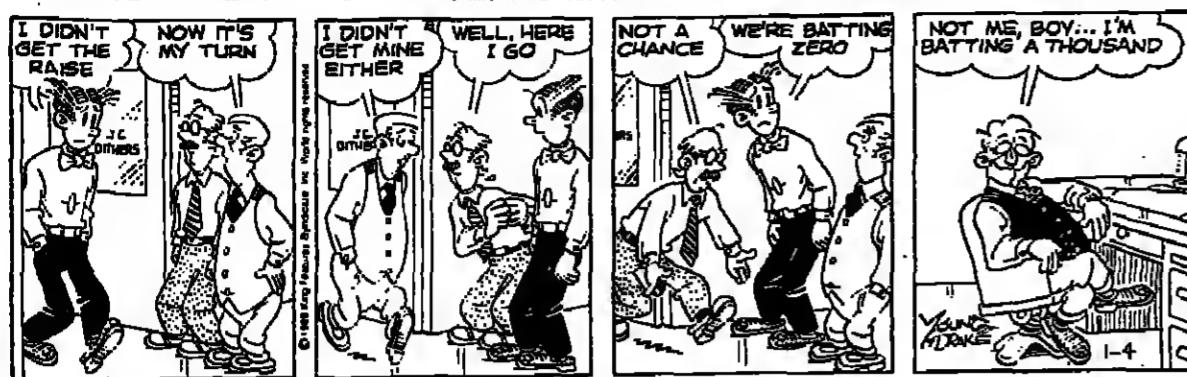
A GENERAL meeting of the members of the International Maritime Forwarding Association (IMFA) took place recently at Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel. The Association was established in May 1989 in Beijing as an offshoot of the International Air Shipping Association (IASA) which held its 37th General Assembly meeting at the Regency Palace Hotel. The bi-annual meeting was hosted in Kuwait by the international freight forwarding company, Al Naeqeb and Khattar.

IASA is strictly an air freight association. We felt it was necessary to form the equivalent but related to the shipping business," commented Dominique Poisot, chairman of IMFA. He explained that the increased competition from the multinational freight forwarding giants has made it necessary for medium fixed, independent firms to work in close co-operation and pool their resources. This network arrangement has several advantages, he said.

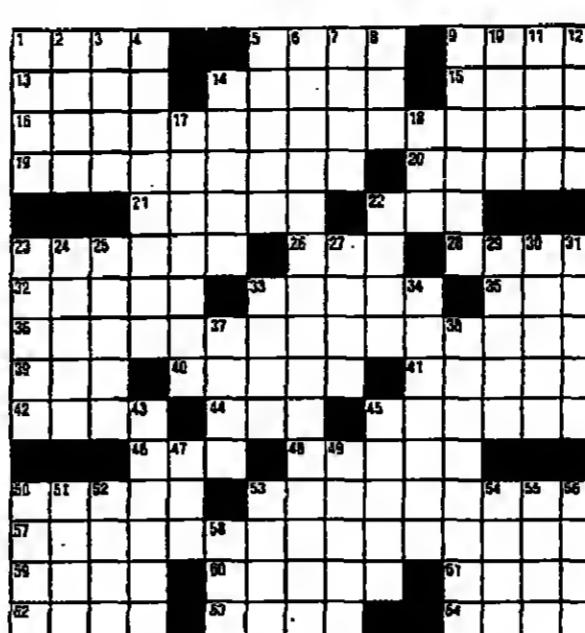
"We liaise directly with members on the shipping route or destination to ensure a more efficient, flexible and personalised 'door-to-door' service. IMFA is also in the process of gaining recognition from major international shipping lines."

Presently there are thirteen exclusive IMFA members representing their respective countries, with four more currently under review, to join the group. The former includes Kuwait

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
 1 Caper
 5 Ambulacra, today
 9 Reputation
 13 Popular name in Oslo
 14 Fast
 15 Author Ludwig
 16 Posti restante
 19 Win, eye-wise
 20 Civic burden
 21 Means of enforcement
 22 "In" thing
 23 Puts on
 26 — a man die, shall he live again?: Job
 28 Pronto, pls.
 32 Chico con —
 33 Savoy dance
 35 UK honor
 36 Ailing
 39 Hula Bowl item
 40 Sand bar
 41 Cat's-paws
 42 Entreated
 44 Euppedes drama
 45 Mortar adjunct
 46 County stopover
 48 Dinglas
 50 Aninfated
 53 Become passa
 57 Candlestick Park, for one
 59 — and an on
 60 Grimeces
 61 Like most basketball players
 62 River in Cumbria
 63 CEO, usually
 64 Sole.

DOWN
 1 Poodles
 2 — e Song Go Out...
 3 Actor Andrews
 4 Implication
 5 Apportion
 6 Patriotic colors
 7 Adolescent
 8 Part of NATO
 9 Segebrush State
 10 NYSE neighbor
 11 Bog
 12 Cities in Minnesota and Nevada
 14 Pauses the peak
 17 Short jackets
 18 Giva — whirl
 22 Renown
 23 Seal pat
 24 Group of experts
 25 Do — (all out)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SEEPS	AWL	PATE
ANVIL	STDIA	ERAS
STDIA	MENDICANT	
SOLDN	ANT	NORSE
UTTERS	NERSE	
APT	SATI	ARI
REID	TENNESSEE	
TRDUT	NAE	TENET
INCIDENCE	ATLII	
TEO	DDE	EYE
SPRAIN	CONDOR	
TIARA	BIT	ILIJUM
EXTENSIVE	CENSE	
RIOT	ADES	TATER
NENE	GET	SNDRE

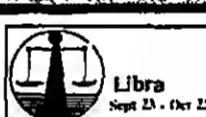
YOUR STARS



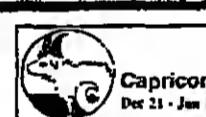
You will be pleased with yourself for having solved a tricky problem. Well done, but do not rest on your laurels. If you think there is plenty of room, you are wrong. Be reasonable.



You will have the wind in your sails but you are sailing in the wrong direction. However, it is not too late to make amends. Your lucky numbers are 17 and 41. Be observant.



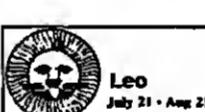
There will be a good opportunity but you will have to act fast if you do not want to miss it. You are more likely to be forgetful, so do not rely on your memory alone. Take the best care of your health. Be less dogmatic.



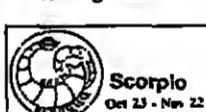
You must avoid a too sedentary existence: take some exercise but not so much that you feel exhausted. There will be some tensions and you should do all you can to minimise them. Show just a little more goodwill. Be sincere.



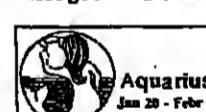
Nothing is quite to your liking but you will be able to cope with it. You will be able to correct a mistake before it is too late. Make sure you do not eat too many sweet things. Be helpful.



You will be right but you should not boast about it: you could just as easily have been wrong. Show a little more sympathy towards someone less fortunate than you. Use more common sense. Be less impatient.



If you ask for too much you will get less than if you were to be more reasonable. You should stick to your principles and have the courage of your convictions. Do not exceed safe limits. Be thorough.



You are liable to be distracted and should do all you can to keep your mind on the job. Something you are learning will turn out to be not quite so easy, but do persevere. Not all is as it seems to be, so look beneath the surface too. Be tactful.



You will do easily so do all you can to conserve your energies. Avoid leaving letters unanswered. Do not expect others to agree with all you say. Be fair.



Something you had not expect to happen will, but something you had expected would happen will not. Do not wait until the very last minute. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Be magnanimous.



You will easily be irritated and should try to control yourself. Remember you too have your irritating side. You should make sure you do not get into bad habits and you should not be hostile to change. Be reliable.



There is no need for pessimism but nor for excessive optimism either. Do not lose sight of your objectives. Not everything is to your liking but you will be able to live with it. Be more tolerant.



"You're being charged with 'disturbing the ambience.'"



"This is my husband, the last of the big suspenders."

14/15

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

USE YOUR ASSETS WISELY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A Q 8 5 2

♡ K J 9

♦ A 3

♣ A K 3

WEST
 ♠ J 10

♡ 7 4

♦ K J 9 6 5 4

♣ 8 5 2

EAST
 ♠ K 9 7 6 3

♡ 6 5 2

♦ 10 7

♣ 9 7 4

SOUTH
 ♠ 4

♡ Q 10 8 3

♦ Q 8 2

♣ Q J 10 6

The bidding:
 North East South West
 2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
 5 NT Pass 7 ♠ Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Before playing to the first trick, count your winners. Then make sure that you plan a line of play that will produce at least the number of tricks you need for your contract.

When South showed a heart suit, North's hand improved considerably. It contained a wealth of controls, good support and a ruffing value. North conveyed that with a cue-bid of his cheapest ace and

South's return cue-bid showed second-round spade control and slam aspirations. North launched into the Grand Slam Force, and an ambitious contract of seven hearts was reached when South held the two missing top trump honors.

West led the jack of spades, and there were only 11 fast tricks in sight. In view of the opening lead, the spade finesse was unlikely to succeed. One way to develop the extra tricks was to try to set up the spade suit. In the process, declarer came up with a remarkable dummy reversal.

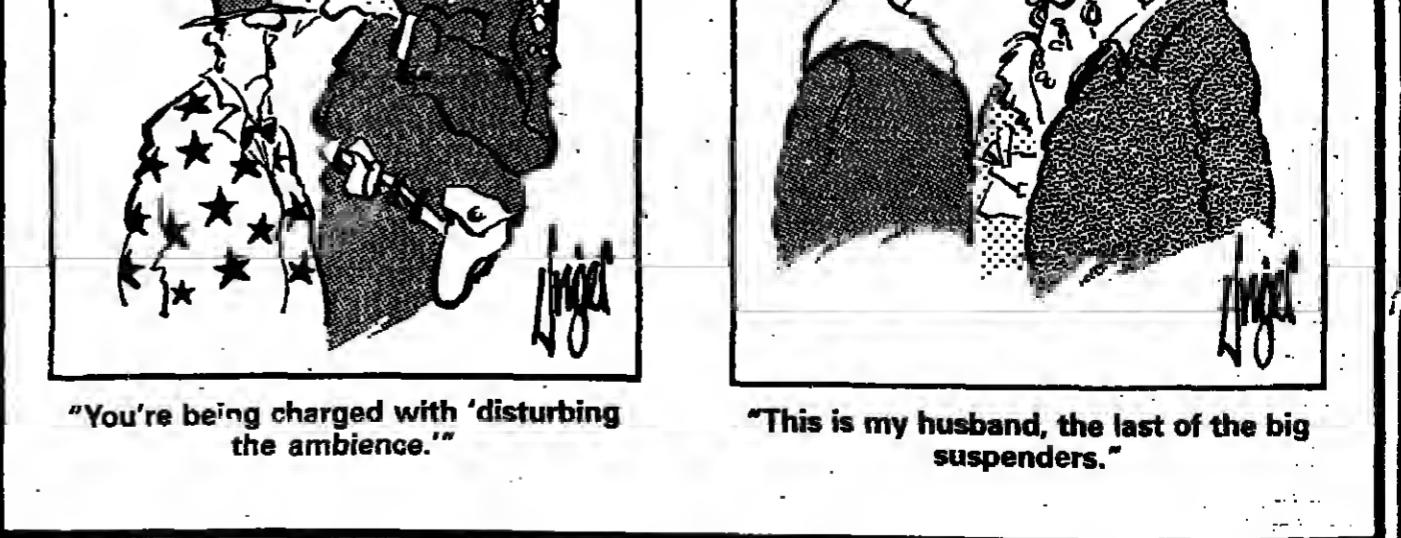
South won the first trick with the ace and immediately ruffed a spade, noting the fall of the ten from West. A club to the king and another spade ruff confirmed the bad break in that suit. Now declarer had to hope for a 3-2 trump break. I sing the table's other club winner and ace of diamonds, in that order, as entries, declarer ruffed two more spades, the last with the ace of trumps. He still had a heart left with which to cross to the board to draw trumps. Declarer was then able to take two more club tricks in hand to bring home the bacon. To all, he made seven trump tricks (four via ruffs), one spade, one diamond and four clubs.



"They said you were wearing this when you fell off the roof."

HE-MAN — By G. Fenton & J. Shull

B.C. — By Johnny Hart



"You're being charged with 'disturbing the ambience.'"



"This is my husband, the last of the big suspenders."

Indian Cinema

Hindi films of 1990s

Quality needed for survival

By Firoze Rangoonwala

WITH the dawn of 1990, not only do we look forward to the start of a new year but also of the new decade and that of the present century as well. The '90s will lead us to the 21st century, exactly a hundred years since motion pictures were invented and first shown in India. But does it hold a bright future for the Hindi cinema with its strange marketing slots?

For any art form or mass medium to survive, quality, variety and work discipline are a must. Sadly these are lacking in the big Bombay bazaar. Despite all that, there were various interesting things being cooked and these will see the light of the projector in the new year.

So what are the films we should look forward to, with some hope? First, let's turn to the 280+ films, completed but not seen. Among them, the first 10 come will be those already bought up by distributors of all territories, followed by the ones to get sold by book or crook. Here the star producers have an edge above others, as they can afford to wait to get big prices. Also to arrive will be those under production in 1989, which are abundantly financed or already bought for all zones.

The most awaited is Amitabh Bachchan and director Mukul Anand's 18-reeler "Agneepath," a crime drama to Hollywood style, with the tall hero in an "angry" image without comedy, romance, songs, dances. These things will be left to the supporting cast of Madhvi, Mithun,

Neelam, Pran. The funny role of Mithun as a South Indian is being much talked about. Another star producer Rajesh Khanna's film "Jai Shiv Shankar" is also on the release schedule. Based on a Malayalam hit mixing crime and politics, its main attraction is that Dimple acts with ex-husband Rajesh, supported by Jeetendra, Poonam, Chunky and Sangeeta. R.D. Burman has given good music for a big gap.

Harmesh Malhotra's "Amiri Garib" with Jeetendra, Rekha, Kishore, Babbar, Poonam, Saeed, Neelam, Pran could be another staple hit. Hema Malini's "Awargi" directed by Mahesh Bhatt, with Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi, Govinda may come if only the Bengal zone gets sold. Lesser hopes for Hema's "Maarg," having shades of Osho Rajni's life, played by Anupam Kher, with Hema also acting opposite Vinod Khanna and Dimple. It is still unsold for 13 sub-divided zones. Deepak Bahri's much-delayed formula stuff "Humse Na Takraa" with Dharmendra, Shatrughna, Mithun, Anil Kapoor, Kimi may overcome some hassles and get released. So too Rajendra Kumar's "Jurrat".

On a smaller scale, Ramsay's "Kaali Gang" with Dimple as a dacoit may get a matinee screening. So too "Khataranaak" with Sujoy Dutta, Anita, Farha, "Khule-Aam" by Guru Dutt's son Arun having Dharmendra, Chunky, Neelam, "Mahasangram" with Viod Khanna, Madhuri, Govinda, Aditya, Sonu Sood and debutante Shabnam (Dilip Kumar's niece), B.

Subhash's "Pyar Ke Nam Qurban" with Mithun, Dimple, Mandakini and Bappi Lahiri's music, Raj Sippy's "Qurbani Rang Layegi," with Sunjay Dutt, Padmaja, Poonam, Sawao Kumar's "Souten ki Bett" with Jeetendra, Rekha, Jaya Prada, Dimple and a few more. But what about more than 200 other films in the cans?

Next on the charts are the films progressing fast when the year begins, to be (hopefully) completed and released before December. They can be spotted from the progress they have made (anything between ten and fifteen reels). R.K.'s "Henna" is a six reels ready but the remaining work will be fast, since the heroine is new and free. Other brother Shashi will surely release his Indo-Soviet "Ajooba" (19 reels) with Amitabh, Kishore, Dimple, Soodam and Russian artistes Ramesh Sippy's "Akeyla," also with Amitabh, and baving Jackie, Meenakshi, Amitra, and Shashi Kapoor himself is nearing completion and almost sold out. Chandra Barot's "Boss" with Vinod Khanna and Jaya Prada looks another certain arrival.

Aamir Khan, the hot cake of 88-89 was pushed into the cold by "Love Love Love" and "Raakhi." His films are lying mostly unsold, like "Dil" and "Deewana Mujhse Nahin" both with Madhuri, and "Daulat ki Jung" with Juhu Dev Anand's "Avval Number" and Aamir's family production "Tum Mere Ho" if sold may resurrect his hero image. Anil and Jackie are riding the crest of success and there will be no lack of money for

their films, like "Gang," "Aangaar," "Kishen Kanhaiya," "Bensam Badshah," "Ghar Ho To Aise," "Hish Chukta." So too for B.O. favourite Mithun's films, like "Yugandhar."

Among other big new films for the year there will be Shakti Samanta's "Dushman" with Mithun and Mandakini, Santeet Shour's "Farishtay" having multiple stars Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna, Rajnikant, Sri Devi and even Jaya Prada as guest. K.R. Reddy's "Garjna" with Sri Devi, Kishore and Vinod Khanna (the winning combination of "Chandoi"), N. Chandra's "Humlaaz" (Dharmendra, Meenakshi, Kimi) and "Narsimha" (Sunny, Dimple), Babbar's own "Karm Yoddha" with himself and Dimple, Deepak Saran's "Rambhoomi" with Jeetendra, Shatrughna, Kishore and Dimple, Boney Kapoor and Sabitha Kausik's "Roop Ki Rani, Choron Ka Raja" with Anil, Jackie, Sri Devi and David Dhawan's "Swarg" having Govinda, Juhu, Rajesh Khanna and so on. Also "Ghar Ka Chirag" with Rajesh, Chunky, Neelam.

There are strange cases of notable films which may or may not arrive. Sunil Dutt's "Yeh Aag Kar Bujhegi" on the dowry problem, with himself, Rekha and Sheeba lies unsold everywhere unless he gets tax exemption. B.R. and Ravi Chopra were so busy with TV serial "Mahabharat" that they have failed to attract distributors for "Dharam Shakti" with Sunil, Mithun, Gaurav, Neelam, Sujata, "Lekin" of Lata Mangeshkar with Dimple and Vinod is avoided because Gulzar's name is B.O. poison. Rekha's ambitious "Madam Z" and "Sheshnaag" are also in suspense. Ramesh Sippy's multi-star "Zameen" (Vidya, Sri Devi, Sunjay Dutt, Madhuri) showed slow progress till now.

But before the year ends, there may be a big show if Subhash Ghai pulls off his "Sandagar" with egotists like Raj Kumar and Dharmendra, aided by Jackie, Anupam, Anil, and his new find Manisha Koirala along with R.K.'s Zeba Bakhtiar and Dev's Fatima Sheikh may prove to be the bright spots on the new year's horizon.

Behind the screen
Kamal Amrohi's son Tajdar has taken an unusual vow in the following words: "Aye Mere Allah. Give me wisdom, give me courage, give me strength. For I, Tajdar Amrohi, having bequeathed (sic: wrong word) my faith in you, bumbly declare that I shall never write or direct a film in future, if I fail to hit the bull's eye with my very first picture "Ek Number Ka Chor," and if I fail to satisfy the masses, classes and critics with my film". But we wonder what he will do or say if his movie fails to get buyers or gets a shabby release in small centres. Will he then blame the Bombay trade or stick to his oath and leave the industry?

For "Henna", the R.K. camp and hero Kishore are taking the "Chandni" success too much for granted. They proclaim: "Only love... no sex, no violence in our film". But then the R.K. tradition and secret of success are to expose the heroines. Perhaps, they are scared of what Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto advised new heroine Zeba and also Randhir Kapoor. The new girl herself is dead against body exposure. So industry

try people say in mocking tones: "What will a R.K. film be without sex, without a 'Chandni' like Sri Devi and that too directed by Randhir Kapoor and not the great showman?"

Muzaffar Ali completed eleven reels of his film "Zoozi" with Dimple as the Kashmiri poetess Habiba Khatoon. But further progress was blocked as finance dried up and the film lay "open" for sale of all territories. To add to Muzaffar's cup of misery Shabana suddenly pulled up the producer for non-payment of dues on the earlier film "Anjuman", another film lying unreleased for years. The industry associations took steps to stop work on "Zoozi" till Shabana is paid off. Was the lady showing her artistic anger or professional one against Dimple being taken as heroine?

Star interview

Kumar Gaurav

With Bumty as pet name in industry and Kumar Gaurav as screen name, Rajendra Kumar's son came with a bang in "Love Story" but ended with a whimper of terrible flop. The teeny bopper hero soon found his lollipop fans doing the vanishing trick. What went wrong? Gaurav himself explains as he looks forward to his next attempt "Jurrat".

Q. How do you analyse the abrupt break-up of your career after a resounding success which made you a teen idol?

A. Yeah, "Loving Story" was great. But the young audience is very fickle and fast. They change their fads every three months or so. My mistake was to sign only moony romantic films. "Teri Kasam," "Lovers," "Romance".... that too with Poonam who is no teenager.... flopped and threw me in the dumps. Now I realise that the youth audience likes a fresh romantic pair only once, in their debut. Look at Kamala Hasan — Rati, Dimple — Rishi and even Aamir Khan — Juhu Chawla. After that they want another fresh pair.

Q. So where did you go wrong?

A. May be I should have taken up different roles, and with young new heroines. Q. How did you still manage to survive?

A. The industry people are very kind. They don't reject you totally. They keep finding new ways for you, like "Googo".

Q. Was it your father's clout that brought you roles?

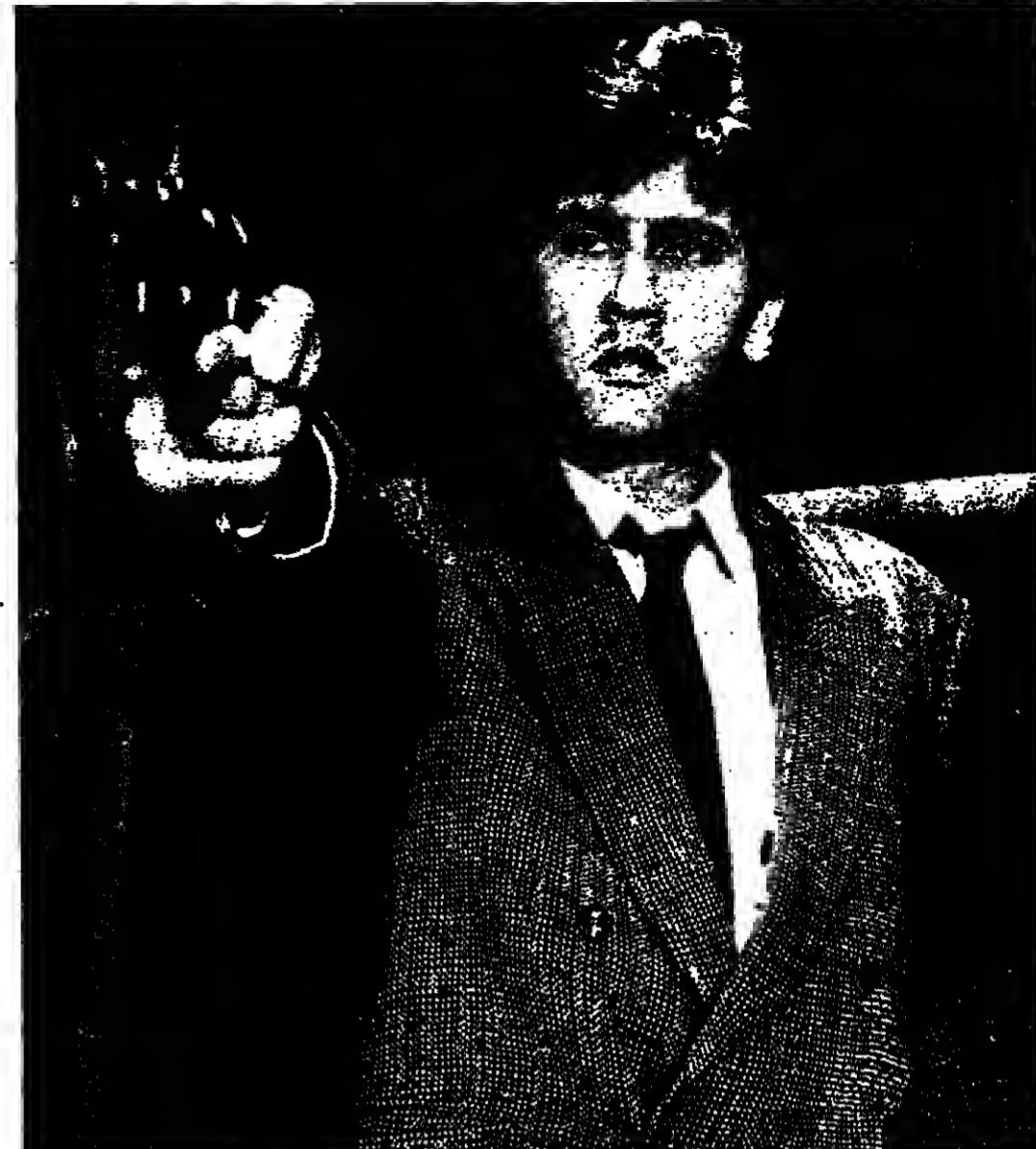
A. Nobody's father can tell any producer to sign anybody for any film.

Q. But your papa is also blamed for wrongly steering your career. Is it true?

A. We had our differences. But as a helpful father he did his best. We have our own family productions and the Mudra people are also very keen to have me. That's how I did films like "Naam" and "Janam."

Q. What about the quarrels with directors which your father had as a producer?

A. It's a question of principles. A director should not get too bossy. But I have no quarrels with Mahesh Bhatt, Rahul Rawail etc. David Dhawan has done an excellent job of "Jurrat" and I am doing a straight young hero's role, in that.



Kumar Gaurav in 'Jurrat'



Jackie Shroff and Sudha Deshpande in 'Angaar'



Vinod Khanna and Amjad Khan in 'Lekin'

The big "A" of 1990 — "Agneepath" with Amitabh and Madhvi

Sri Lanka's beloved elephant is preserved for the nation

By Minoli de Soysa

COLOMBO (Reuters): Raja, the national treasure, has been preserved for posterity.

The magnificently tusked, nine-foot, six inch (three-metre) tall elephant, who died at the age of 66, was Sri Lanka's best-loved animal.

His admirers included former president Junitus Jayewardene who provided the 153,000 rupees (\$3,825) needed for the prodigious feat of taxidermy.

To many Sri Lankans, Raja held an almost god-like status. Each August for 50 years, beginning in 1937, the richly caparisoned Raja carried a national Buddhist relic on his broad back during the annual Kandy Perahera, a festival highlighted by a colourful procession to the Temple of the Tooth.

Sri Lanka's Buddhists, 70 per cent of the island's 17 million people, believe the gold casket that Raja carried through the streets of the ancient hill capital of Kandy contains a tooth relic

of the Buddha.

The task of carrying the relic in the annual procession, a major tourist attraction, is given only to the most special of elephants.

They have to meet strict physical criteria, the proper height and width, have large tusks as well as determination and patience to brave the noisy, hot journey through jostling crowds.

Captured in 1925 when he was just two years old and four feet, five inches (1.3 metres) high, Raja was donated to the temple by a Kandy resident a few years later.

Raja was declared a national treasure by Jayewardene in 1985 and so he had to be preserved after his death.

"In 1988 I was in Kenya and we looking through a book on animals saw that an animal named Ahmed had been stuffed and kept in the museum there. I decided this was the answer," said Neranjan Wijeyeratne, eas-

odian of the Temple of the Tooth, which houses the relic and now houses Raja.

The much-photographed Raja had been sick for some time and the decision had been taken that he was too feeble to carry the casket in the 1988 procession.

"I think he knew that, that's why he died," said Wijeyeratne.

Immediate action was vital. "I knew that if the skin started deteriorating, nothing could be done," said National Museum director Dr Thelma Gunawardana, who along with her team of taxidermists, took on the task of preserving the legendary beast.

Since this was the first time such a procedure had been attempted in Sri Lanka, Gunawardana said she had to resist pressure to bring in foreign experts.

"I was confident we had the expertise to do it," she said.

"First we took precise measurements so that he could be reconstructed exactly. Then

he was skinned in one huge sheet. The skin was treated with large amounts of preservatives and brought to Colombo along with the skull and tusks."

Sinhalese account for 74 per cent of the island's 16 million people with Tamils making up 18 per cent and Muslims eight per cent.

After Sri Lanka became independent from Britain in 1948, English remained the language of administration for a decade until Sinhala was made the official language in a move that triggered violent protests from Tamils.

Children were separated into two streams in schools, each taught in their mother tongue, further sharpening the division of the country along ethnic lines.

"This will constitute the first step towards promotion of national integration," Lokubandara said.

In Colombo the skin was cured and tanned.

Once the funds were released,

the skin was taken back to Kandy where the procedure

Tamils accused the government of discriminating against them in language, employment and land allocation.

In 1975, the leading Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation Front, demanded a separate homeland.

Tamil youths took up the cry and formed militant groups to fight the Sri Lankan army in a campaign to set up an independent state in the northeast, where most Tamils live.

As the Sri Lankan army, made up mainly of Sinhalese, moved to crush the rebellion, the Indian

began in a room of the main temple.

The skin was put over like a

realistic touches like musk at the eyes added.

The skin was put over like a

blanket, the tusks pushed into the sockets, glass eyes fixed and

paperboard, plaster of Paris and fibre.

"To me it is Raja, only thing is that he is not breathing," said a satisfied Wijeyeratne.

National integration through language

Sri Lanka has now passed laws devolving power to the northeast provincial council and making both Sinhala and Tamil official languages.

The teaching of Sinhala and Tamil to all will be the medium through which mutual trust and understanding among different sections of the community will be achieved," Lokubandara said.

Under the proposed scheme, Sinhalese children will be taught the Tamil language during their first six years at school. Tamil children will learn Sinhala for a similar period.

realistic touches like musk at the eyes added.

The skin was put over like a

Happy birthday



Kamran Ali turned 11 on December 6



Punaki Banerjee turned 9 on December 29



Subodh Kumar turned 13 on December 26



Nazreen turned 7 on December 31



S. Farheen turned 12 on December 30



Jamil Joseph Estorninos turned 4 on January 2



Osman Khan turned 13 on January 1



Shaista Mohammed turns 2 today, January 4



Jeffrey Pereira turns 7 on January 5



Aarthi Jayaram turns 7 on January 6



Sachin Rampal turns 6 on January 7



Kingsley Colaso turns 5 on January 6

Variety

Vitamin A intake

Finding the safety threshold

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Tales of vitamin A toxicity are often bizarre, centring on Arctic explorers eating huge amounts of polar bear liver or fitness fanatics gobbling handfuls of vitamin supplements.

But Americans should be aware that more subtle overloads of vitamin A might pose some serious health risks, particularly to pregnant women, children and the elderly, federal nutrition experts say.

The ideal vitamin A intake for the average man is about 3,100 to 3,300 international units (IU) daily, according to the National Research Council's 1989 edition of the recommended dietary allowances (RDAs).

But Dr John Hatchcock of the Food and Drug Administration estimates 3 per cent to 4 per cent of the US population take vitamin supplements containing 25,000 IU or more of vitamin A per day.

"That's a heck of a lot of people. If even 1 per cent of the population are taking potentially toxic doses, that's too high," said Hatchcock, adding the FDA is still trying to determine at what level the vitamin meets the government's "generally recognized as safe" standard.

So far, vitamin A toxicity — which may include bone abnormalities and life-threatening liver damage — has only been conclusively shown in adults who consistently consume more than 50,000 IU daily of vitamin A and young children who take more than 20,000 IU daily.

But Hatchcock said a growing body of research indicates the vitamin A safety threshold may be far lower for certain high-risk groups.

"The question is not the upper limits, but rather how little can possibly cause problems," the nutrition expert told a recent seminar.

Vitamin A is a group of compounds essential to vision, cell growth and immune function.

Intestinal supplements vitamin A generally refers to retinol, also known as "pre-formed vitamin A." Food sources of pre-formed vitamin A are primarily limited to liver and fish liver oils, and it is rare for toxicity to stem from diet alone, Hatchcock said.

The body can also convert precursors called carotenoids into vitamin A. Carotenoids, which are found in carrots, spinach and many other vegetables, are absorbed through the intestine far less efficiently than retinoids. But they are not known to be toxic even when taken in large doses over long periods of time.

Much of the worry over vitamin A's safety arose in the mid-80's after it became evident that the acne drug accutane, which is a powerful analog of retinol, caused birth defects if taken during the early weeks of pregnancy.

Hatchcock said evidence is now "close to compelling" that daily vitamin A consumption exceeding 100,000 IU by pregnant women can cause miscarriages and birth defects, mainly of the face and skull, in their foetuses.

For daily intakes between 20,000 and 100,000 IU, Hatchcock said "modest evidence" for vitamin A-related birth defects exists. The FDA researcher said in his opinion, problems likely arise "in the 25,000 IU bracket, maybe as low as 20,000 IU."

There currently is no persuasive evidence to link birth defects to daily consumption below 20,000 IU, Hatchcock said.

The FDA researcher advised pregnant women to take low to moderate-potency vitamin supplements with vitamin A levels in the 4,000 to 5,000 IU range. And he warned that it would be "imprudent" to take formulas that contain several times the RDA of vitamin A.

The vitamin A supplements most commonly on the market range in potency from 2,500 to 20,000 IU, but there are some 25,000 IU products on the market, according to the Council for Responsible Nutrition, a trade group for the supplement industry.

The council recommends supplements formulated for use by pregnant women contain no more than 8,000 IU of vitamin A per day. In addition, any women who could become pregnant should not take more than 10,000 IU per day, except on the advice of a doctor, the group said.

Another recent study indicated the elderly may also be at increased risk for lower level vitamin A toxicity, perhaps experiencing problems from long-term use in the 5,000 to 10,000 IU per day range, Hatchcock said.

But the FDA official cautioned the liver damage found in the older people may not be a direct result of vitamin A overload. He said vitamin A may be just unmasking "silent", pre-existing liver damage, such as that caused by viral hepatitis. Other factors, including alcohol and the antibiotic tetracycline, may also impair the body's ability to handle vitamin A, he said.

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The council recommends supplements for pregnant

Chesnokov overcomes Hogstedt

Jonsson stretches Sanchez



Sanchez made to fight for win

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Jan 3, (AP): Top seeds Emilio Sanchez and Andrei Chesnokov encountered stiff Swedish opposition today, but both advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$150,000 BP Nationals Tennis Championship.

Sanchez of Spain defeated Lars Jonsson 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, while second-seeded Chesnokov of the Soviet Union struggled past another Swede, Thomas Hogstedt, 7-6, 7-6.

Fifth seed Paolo Cane of Italy and eighth seeded Rickey Ramirez of the United States also advanced with second-round wins in the 32-draw event, first on the New Association of Tennis Professionals Tour.

Cane downed New Zealander Bruce Derlin 6-4, 7-6, while Ramirez beat yet another Swede, Christian Bergstrom 6-4, 6-3.

Promising young Australian Richard Fromberg scored the only upset on the third day, ousting seventh-seeded Paul Chamberlain 6-3, 6-4 of the United States.

Also advancing were Gilad Bloom of Israel, Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia and first round giant-killer Lars Wahlgren, the only Swedish survivor.

Wahlgren, who beat defending champion Kelly Evernden of New Zealand in the first round,

bested Jeremy Bates of Britain 6-4, 6-7, 6-3.

Bloom beat Veli Paloheimo of Finland 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in a protracted struggle, while Novacek ousted Swedish-born Australian Johan Anderson 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

Only two quarterfinal matches are scheduled for tomorrow. Chesnokov will play Rosenberg in the centre court opener with Novacek then facing Wahlgren. Matches pitting Sanchez against Fromberg and Bloom against Cane are to be played Friday.

The tournament continues through Sunday.

■ And in Brisbane, second-seeded Jana Novotna breezed into the quarterfinals of the \$150,000 Danone Queensland Open today with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Australian Michelle Jagard.

The powerful Czechoslovak player, currently ranked 11th in the world, is aiming for a top five spot by the end of the year.

"I'm not totally happy with the way I'm playing, I still lack a little consistency, but I'm feeling really fit," Novotna said. "I'm being coached by Betty Stove and Mike Estep and hitting with Hana Mandlikova as part of a team and I'm feeling the benefits."

Novotna was joined in the last eight of the 56-draw tournament

by unseeded Japanese teenager Kimiko Date.

Date, 19, upset her second seed of the event by beating 15th seeded American Terry Phelps 6-1, 6-2. She downed fourth seeded Ros Fairbank in the second round yesterday.

Three seeded players — 10th seeded Judith Wiesner of Austria, 14th seeded Isabelle Demongeot of France and 16th seeded Kathy Rinaldi of the United States — scored second round wins.

But 12th seeded Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia was eliminated by Australian teenager Kristin Godridge.

Godridge, 16, outlasted Rajchrtova 4-6, 6-2, 6-0 in sweltering conditions.

Demongeot defeated Australian Renata Stihl 7-6 (8-6), 6-3, while Rinaldi battled past Maya Kidowaki of Japan 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. Wiesner ousted American Carrie Cunningham 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

Big-serving Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands also progressed to the third round with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 win over Australian Kristine Radford, a late replacement for third seeded Belinda Cordwell of New Zealand, who withdrew with an ankle injury.

Top-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia was inactive.



Becker: seeking No.1 spot

Tyson set to fight Holyfield in June

NEW YORK, Jan 3 (AP): Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield are expected to sign contracts by next week for a June 18 bout that could pay the two heavyweights a record total of \$40 million, representatives of both sides said yesterday.

If the fight generates as much money as promoters hope, champion Tyson could earn \$25 million and No. 1 challenger Holyfield \$15 million in a battle of unbeatens.

Holyfield's promoters Shelly Finkel and Dan Duvu planned to fly today or tomorrow to Las Vegas, Nevada, to meet with Tyson's promoter Don King. The sides hope to sign the contracts before Tyson leaves next week for Tokyo, where he will defend his title Feb. 11 against Buster Douglas.

"We're very close," said Finkel, who has been negotiating with King for two weeks to put together the pay-per-view and closed circuit TV bout. "It will probably happen next week."

"There are just some things that aren't important left to settle."

Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City, N.J., and the Mirage and Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nev., are interested in staging the fight and the casino that wins the bidding will probably pay at least a \$11 million site fee. A Japanese group is also interested in holding the bout.

King's boxing director Al Braverman confirmed negotiations are running smoothly for the fight.

"Talks are going well. Don and Shelly are pretty compatible," Braverman said. "Holyfield's the best (challenger) out there."

Tyson would be heavily favoured over Holyfield, perhaps by as much as 7-1 in the opening line.

Tyson, 37-0 with 33 knockouts, last defended his title with a 92-second knockout of Carl "The Truth" Williams in Atlantic City. Holyfield's last fight was an eight-round knockout of Alex Stewart Nov. 4. Holyfield, 23-0 with 19 knockouts, was undisputed cruiserweight champion before moving up to the heavyweight ranks 18 months ago.

Holyfield, of Atlanta, stopped all five of his heavyweight opponents. The Tyson bout would be his biggest payday by far.

Tyson, a 23-year-old New Yorker, would also likely earn a career high. He made around \$22 million — the largest individual purse in boxing history — for a 91-second knockout of Michael Spinks in June 1987. Spinks earned \$13.5 million in the bout which also set the record for boxers' combined purse.

Donald Trump is the favourite to land the bout in his Atlantic City casino. Prior agreements with both fighters' camps give him the right to make the first offer and match any higher bid. Steve Wynn, owner of the month-old Mirage, has said he will not pay more than \$10 million for Tyson-Holyfield.

Skier killed in avalanche

VAI, Colorado, Jan 3, (AP): A skier was killed and his two companions were injured in an avalanche just outside the Vail ski resort, authorities said.

The body of Scott Walton, 25, of Ridgefield, Connecticut, was found by search and rescue teams using probes in 10 feet of deep snow, said Jeff Beavers, a spokesman for the Eagle County Sheriff's department.

Daniel Gurnett, 24, of Avon, Colorado, and Peter Leitton, 24, of Ridgefield, were injured in yesterday's slide. They were treated and released from Vail Valley Medical Centre.

Leitton and Gurnett managed to ski out of the avalanche and Leitton hiked back up to the Vail ski area to telephone for help, Beavers said.

Beavers said the 100-foot-wide (30 metre-wide) slide occurred outside the China Bowl area, where numerous avalanche warning were posted.

3-month-old kid dons skis

KAP, Norway, Jan 3, (AP): Norwegians claim to be born with skis on their feet, but an infant turned heads in his wintry hometown by arriving at his christening party in full cross-country ski gear.

Peter Skinstad, the 3-month-old son of national ski team member Aage Skinstad, received the specially made skis and copy of the Norwegian ski team uniform from his godfather Bjorn Dahl, a top cross-country racer, said the boy's mother, Ragnhild.

The southern Norway newspaper *Oppland Arbeiderblad* published a photograph of the infant skier today and said his father predicted that Peter would use the skis next winter, after he learns to walk.

Lewis-Johnson race being planned

RALEIGH, N.C., Jan 3, (Reuter): Carl Lewis' business manager said yesterday he was discussing the possibility with at least six groups of a multi-million-dollar race in September between the two-time US Olympic and disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson.

"The lowest offer — and the latest round — has been \$1 million for Carl and the highest has been \$6 million," Joe Douglas, Lewis' business agent, told Reuters by telephone from California. "But I don't know how substantial any of the offers are."

Three of the groups are from the United States, two from Spain and one from the Netherlands, he said. The race could gross more than \$10 million, Douglas said he had been told.

"It would be the event of the year," he said. The rematch probably would take place a few days after Johnson regains his eligibility on September 25, Douglas said.

Johnson, who finished Lewis in a stirring 100 metres final at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, was suspended for two years by the

International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) after testing positive for steroids at the 1988 race. He also was stripped of his gold medal and will lose the 100 metres world record, which he set in 1987, to Lewis later this month because of admitted drug use.

Lewis won four gold medals in the 1984 Olympics and successfully defended his titles in the 100 metres and long jump at the 1988 Games.

Talks continue over where the race will be held, Douglas said.

"As far as viewing the race (on television) in the States, Japan would be a good market and North America would be a good place," he said. "I don't know if the Johnson people would want it in America, but I would. Europe would be my third choice. But you go where the best situation is. Wherever they have it is fine, so long as it is prompted well."

"British's *Daily Express* reported last month that US boxing promoter Bob Arum had lined up a \$3.2 million race between

Johnson and Lewis for Barcelona, Spain, for

September 25. But Douglas said he had not spoken to Arum.

"I am having discussions with a US boxing promoter, but it is not Arum," Douglas said.

He identified the two other US groups as marketing companies and said one of the Spanish groups is from Seville and the other from Barcelona. He would not identify any of the groups by name.

Douglas said talks also were taking place with people who worked for a US television company.

"We would definitely want to bring in Pay-per-view (cable) television," he said.

At least five or six athletes would be involved in the 100 metre race, Douglas said.

"And wherever it is held, I don't want it to be a side show or a circus," Douglas said. "I want it to be a great track event with more than one race. I think we should also have a 200-400 and perhaps 800 (metres) for men and a couple of women's events."

"It should be a great track show, one with a lot of money on the line that sets a precedent for future races."

Coghlan set to return

RALEIGH, N.C., Jan 3, (Reuter): Eamonn Coghlan, the world indoor mile record holder, is expected to announce his return to competitive indoor running after a two-year layoff.

Coghlan, a 37-year-old Irishman who lives in the United States, retired in late 1988 from all athletics except road racing in which he broke his leg.

After clocking eight minutes, 53.15 seconds for two miles and 3:54.63 for 1,500 metres in a low-key meeting last weekend, Coghlan decided to race on the North American indoor circuit this season and was to announce his return at a news conference today, a source closely involved with the indoor circuit said.

Coghlan set the world indoor mile record of 3:49.78 seconds at East Rutherford, New Jersey, on February 27, 1983.

Montana named NFL MVP

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 3, (AP): Quarterback Joe Montana, who had the best all-round passing year in League history in 1989, added a new honour yesterday when he was named NFL Most Valuable Player by the Associated Press.

Three years after undergoing major back surgery and a year after his starting job was put up for grabs by Bill Walsh, Montana at age 33 guided the San Francisco 49ers to four fourth-quarter comeback wins and the League's best record (14-2). He had a sixth season of 3,000-plus passing yards, tying Dan Fouts' League record, and at one point threw 150 passes without an interception.

Montana, completing a near-record 70.2 per cent of his passes for 26 touchdowns and a career-low eight interceptions, also was an easy winner of the AP's Offensive Player of the Year award.

In balloting by a national panel media, Montana received 62 votes for MVP. Green Bay quarterback Don Majkowski was a distant second with 6. The only other vote-getter was defensive tackle Keith Millard of Minnesota with 2.

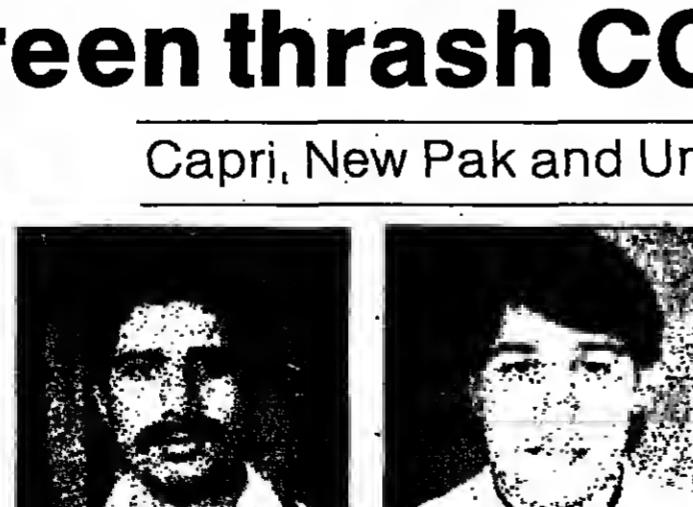
Montana, the all-time NFL in quarterback rating

(94.0) and completion percentage (63.9 per cent), is a two-time Super Bowl MVP and was an overwhelming choice this fall as AP pro football Player of the Decade. But despite six selections to the pro bowl, five as the NFC starter, and a previous NFL passing title in 1987, he had never been the League MVP.

"It's a great honour," Montana said at the 49ers' training camp in Santa Clara, where the team is preparing for Saturday's home payoff game with Minnesota. "There were a lot of players around the league who had good seasons, and to be singled out is rewarding."

The 49ers, who led the League in total offense in 1987 and 1989 and were second last season, have had a monopoly on offensive Players of the Year awards for three years. Jerry Rice was MVP and offensive player in 1987 and Roger Craig was selected for the offensive award last season.

"A lot of the credit for my success goes to my teammates. Jerry, John Taylor and Roger and the line all had great years as well as the entire offense, which made my job a lot easier," Montana said. "Without them I would not have been able to have the type of season that I'm having."



Suhaib Asad

Ground on Friday.

Evergreen won the toss and opted to bat first through Dawood and Inam, but were soon in trouble when the latter was bowled by Nasir in early overs.

Sobail couldn't last long and was brilliantly caught by Ibrar, deep in the field off Sarfraz. This brought the captain, Razzag, who with Dawood steered the innings and accelerated the run-rate until both were out for 61 and 64 runs, respectively.

Qayum and Jameel remained not out with 14 and 15 runs. Evergreen posted a total of 94 runs in 27 overs for the loss of 5 wickets. For Capri, Naseer and Sarfraz shared two wickets each while Ibran chipped in with one.

Chasing an average of more than seven runs per over, Adnan and Naseer played steadily and maintained the required run-rate

when the latter was out for 19 well played runs. Bitru and Sajid both went cheaply, but Adnan kept his courage and patience and stroked freely all over the ground almost at will during the match-winning partnership with Ibran.

Both the batsmen hammered the Evergreen bowlers, especially Dawood who was struck for 50 runs in 5 overs, and demonstrated an excellent skill of running between the wickets.

Ibran was finally out for a stylish 27. Sarfraz was out first ball and Khaif was run out, but once again it was Adnan who didn't give up and kept on scoring with Ibran, and when Adnan was run out for a heroics 90 studded with five fours and one six, it was all over for Evergreen.

Abid and Jayantilal remained not out with 10 and 3 runs, respectively. Capri scored 178 runs at the

end of 25th over and won the match on better average.

■ New Pak Cricket Club scored a one-wicket victory over Lions Cricket Club in a Honda Trophy match at the Salimiyah Ground on Friday.

Lions, batting first, ran into some accurate bowling from New Pak and struggled to make the runs all through their innings but still managed to maintain a run-rate of over six runs per over. They scored 152 in their 25 allotted overs.

Mubashir and Pervez hit 80 runs for New Pak and purson 90 runs for the first wicket. Mubashir hit eight fours in his 63. Lions got back into the game through some accurate bowling by Wasanta.

The New Pak batsmen, however, stuck on till the end and managed to get past the victory target with one wicket to spare.

Pervez scored 43 runs.

For Lions, Wasanta took four wickets while Hamza and Alami got one each.

■ Unity CC trounced Union CC by a wide margin of eight wickets in a Thursday League match played at the KOC New Grounds.

Abid, batting first, ran into some accurate bowling from New Pak and struggled to make the runs all through their innings but still managed to maintain a run-rate of over six runs per over. They scored 152 in their 25 allotted overs.

Mubashir and Pervez hit 80 runs for New Pak

Pakistani batting collapses

Aussies score easy win



MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan. 3. (AP): Captain Allan Border hit an unbeaten 69 today as Australia cruised to a seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in a World Series Cup one-day cricket match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Australia reached 162 for three in response to Pakistan's woeful 161 all out with a full nine overs to spare.

Border was named Man of the Match for his innings, while Steve Waugh contributed 31 in an 81-run partnership.

The Pakistanis were without vice-captain Javed Miandad, who was suffering from a virus, but batted poorly right down the order.

Australian pace bowler Carl Rackemann took three wickets for 21 and only captain Imran Khan resisted with stout-hearted 39.

Australia improved its record in the triangular tournament to 3-0. Sri Lanka is 1-2 and Pakistan 0-2.

Imran Khan won the toss and elected to bat but his batsmen had no answer to Rackemann and Merv Hughes, who bowled 10 overs at a cost of just 16 runs.

Openers Shoaib Mohammed and Aamir Malik were able to

keep out the Australian attack but could not push on and score runs.

The pair laboured for more than 20 overs over an opening stand of 67.

Hughes bowled a superb opening spell of five overs for five runs and Rackemann conceded just 11 runs from his first seven overs.

Shoaib wasted 56 deliveries on his 22 and Aamir upped a further 65 balls for his 23 before Rackemann disposed of both openers in his sixth over.

Aamir flicked at Rackemann and was brilliantly caught by wicketkeeper Ian Healy and then Shoaib was caught by Healy trying to glance.

Mansoor Akhtar provided some much-needed impetus in a 40-run stand with Imran but an ambitious spell at spinner Peter Taylor ended his innings at 32 when he lost his off bail.

Imran was forced to anchor the innings, finishing with 39 in an hour and a half as wickets fell around him.

Ijaz Ahmed did not respond to Imran's call and was run out by David Boon and Boosoo later effected his second run out, hitting the stumps from long off to get rid of Maqsood Rana, son of umpire Shoaib Rana.

Total (50 overs) 162 for three.

Fall of wickets 6, 17, 81.

Bowling: Hughes 10-3-16-0, Alderman 10-2-31-1 (2w), Rackemann 10-2-21-3 (1b), O'Donnell 9-0-43-1 (6w), Taylor 10-0-36-2, Waugh 1-0-6-0.

AUSTRALIA

D. Boon b Ghouri	39
G. Marsh c Aamir b Wasim	3
D. Jones b Asqab	2
A. Border not out	69
S. Waugh not out	31
Extras (7b 8w 1nb)	18
Total	162 for three.

Fall of wickets 6, 17, 81.

Bowling: Wasim Akram 10-1-24-1 (1b), Aaqib Javed 8-0-30-1 (2w), Maqsood Rana 2-0-11-0, Imran Khan 7-0-29-0, Nadeem Ghouri 10-3-30-1, Abdul Qadir 4-0-23-0.

Batting time: 164 minutes. Overs 41. Attendance 52,813.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN	
Aamir Malik c Healy b Rackemann	23
Shoaib Mohammed c Healy b Rackemann	21
Mansoor Akhtar b Taylor	32
Saeed Anwar c Marsh b Taylor	3
Imran Khan Hughes b O'Donnell	39
Ijaz Ahmed run out	3
Wasim Akram c Taylor	8
b Rackemann	1
Abdul Qadir c Border's Alderman	1
Maqsood Rana run out	5
Nadeem Ghouri not out	7
Aaqib Javed run out	1
Extras (1b-8w-3nb-1)	17
Total (50 overs)	161

Fall of wickets 1-58 2-59 3-67 4-107

5-115 6-136 7-138 8-148 9-156.

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Chess tourney

THE prize distribution ceremony of the Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Memorial Chess Tournament was late Tuesday evening at the SAS Hotel.

The championship, which concluded earlier on the same day, was held under the patronage of the Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, who deputised Sheikh Bader Sabah Al Salem to attend the prize distribution on his behalf.

The prize distribution ceremony was also attended by the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry Undersecretary for Youth Affairs, Abdul Rahman Al Mazroui.

Above: the winners with the tournament officials and the chief guest.

Right: two of the winners receive their prizes from Sheikh Bader Sabah Al Salem. (Photos by Javed Basra)



Flying Arrows, Cosmos triumph

COSMOS and Flying Arrows beat Starworld and Al Hilal respectively no penalty strokes in the Franklin Memorial Cup hockey tournament at the Ahmadi grounds earlier this week.

Pak XI and Unity were awarded walkovers in the Al Mulla and Al Hilal tournaments when Kuwait Independents Gold and Black failed to turn up. Today the Flying Arrows meet Al Hilal at 2.00 pm, Pak XI vs Starworld at 2.00 pm, Unity take on Kuwait Independent Gold at 3.00 pm and Cosmos take on Kuwait Independent Black at 3.00 pm.

RESULTS

Atlanta	113	Milwaukee	107
Detroit	115	Orlando	113
Washington	110	New Jersey	96
L.A. Clippers	87	Minnesota	79
Phoenix	113	New York	99
Chicago	113	Indiana	106
Golden State	133	Utah	120
Portland	119	Miami	95

115-113 victory.

James Edwards had 21 points and Joe Dumars added 19 for Detroit, which hit 15 of 18 free

throws down the stretch to win for the sixth time in seven games.

Hawks 113, Bucks 107

Charles Smith hit two straight baskets to break a late tie and the

Clippers won their first road

game after 10 losses, 87-79.

Minnesota, which has lost 12

of its last 13 games, scored a team

record-low 30 second-half

points. The Expansion club's

only offensive threat was Tony

Campbell, who scored 31.

Platons 115, Magic 113

Bill Laimbeer had 26 points

and Detroit scored 15 of its last

17 points from the free-throw

line. Laimbeer scored 14 points

in the second half and had the

only field goal in the last six minutes for the NBA champions in a

113-111 victory.

James Edwards had 21 points

and Joe Dumars added 19 for

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throws down the stretch to win

for the sixth time in seven games.

Hawks 113, Bucks 107

Moses Malone scored 31

points, including four free

throws in the last minute to seal

the victory. Malone, who was 17-

for-17 from the free-throw line,

pulled down 14 rebounds and

hit his season high for points as

Atlanta broke the Bucks' five-

game winning streak, 113-107.

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